UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/451
16 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Item 29 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 7	3
II.	CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION	8 - 10	4
III.	FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON PROPOSALS AGREED TO AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS	11 - 145	4
	A. Department of Political Affairs	13 - 17	5
	B. Department of Economic and Social Development	18 - 25	6
	C. Department of Humanitarian Affairs - Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator	26 - 30	7
	D. United Nations Children's Fund	31	8
	E. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	32 - 34	9
	F. United Nations Development Programme	35 - 39	10

* A/47/150.

92-44522 3380c (E) 201092 221092

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
G.	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	40 - 43	10
H.	World Food Programme	44 - 46	11
I.	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ..	47 - 55	12
J.	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	56 - 58	15
K.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	59 - 60	15
L.	International Labour Organisation	61 - 92	15
M.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	93 - 106	21
N.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	107 - 113	23
O.	International Civil Aviation Organization	114 - 115	24
P.	World Health Organization	116 - 125	25
Q.	World Bank	126	27
R.	World Meteorological Organization	127 - 129	27
S.	International Maritime Organization	130 - 132	27
T.	World Intellectual Property Organization	133 - 137	28
U.	International Fund for Agricultural Development ..	138	29
V.	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	139 - 143	29
W.	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade	144 - 145	30

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/24 of 5 December 1991, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States", the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/438) and requested the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS), within their respective fields of competence, inter alia, to intensify further their cooperation towards the realization of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the strengthening of international peace and security.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and LAS and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields; and to continue to coordinate the follow-up action to facilitate the implementation of the proposals of a multilateral nature adopted at the Tunis meeting in 1983, and to take appropriate action regarding the proposals adopted at previous meetings.

3. The General Assembly decided that in order to intensify cooperation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of progress as well as to prepare comprehensive periodic reports, a general meeting between the United Nations system and LAS should take place once every two years, the next general meeting to be held in 1992, and inter-agency sectoral meetings should be organized annually on areas of priority and wide importance in the development of the Arab States.

4. The General Assembly took note of the intention of the League of Arab States to hold a high-level Arab regional meeting on children in 1992 and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to cooperate with the League of Arab States in the furtherance of this objective.

5. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of LAS, to encourage periodic consultations between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation and follow-up action of multilateral projects and proposals adopted by the meetings of the two organizations.

6. The General Assembly recommended that the next general meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States address itself to the development of a mechanism for enhancing cooperation between the two organizations.

7. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the above resolution.

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION

8. On 30 September 1991, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the United Nations Secretariat met with the Under-Secretary-General for International Political Affairs, League of Arab States, at United Nations Headquarters. They discussed matters of cooperation between the two organizations, in particular the sectoral meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States on "Child Welfare and Development in the Arab Countries" which was to be held at Geneva on 25 and 26 November 1991.

9. On 3 October 1991, the Secretary-General of the United Nations met with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States at United Nations Headquarters. They took the opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest, in particular the developments in the Middle East.

10. During the period under review, the secretariats of the United Nations and LAS continued to maintain close contact on matters of mutual concern to the two organizations.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON PROPOSALS AGREED TO AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS

11. It may be recalled that the joint meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and LAS was held at Geneva from 18 to 20 July 1990 (see A/45/481/Add.1). The meeting decided to establish the following six sectoral areas for cooperation between the two organizations:

(a) International peace and security;

(b) Food and agriculture;

(c) Labour, trade, industry and environment;

(d) Social affairs;

(e) Education, science, culture and information;

(f) Communications.

12. A summary of reports of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system on their cooperation with LAS during the period under review is given below. This summary includes the activities in the sectoral areas, as well as the follow-up action on proposals adopted at the meeting held at Tunis

in 1983 (A/38/299 and Corr.1), at Amman in 1985 (A/40/481/Add.1) and at Geneva in 1988 (A/43/509/Add.1).

A. Department of Political Affairs

1. Security Council Affairs

13. In the period since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/46/438), the Security Council extended invitations, under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure, to the Under-Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations to participate in its discussions on the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland and Union des Transports Aeriens flight 772 over the Niger, as well as the situation in Somalia.

14. With regard to the Pan Am aircraft incident, the League of Arab States informed the Secretary-General of its position in a letter dated 6 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/758-S/23274).

15. In a letter dated 21 January 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations transmitted the text of a resolution adopted by the Council of LAS at its extraordinary session on 5 January 1992 concerning the situation in Somalia (S/23448). In its resolutions 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992, 746 (1992) of 17 March 1992 and 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, the Security Council welcomed the cooperation between the United Nations and LAS and other regional organizations concerned, and called upon the Secretary-General to initiate and continue, in close cooperation with such regional organizations, the contacts with all parties involved in the conflict of Somalia.

2. Outer Space Affairs

16. The Office for Outer Space Affairs has cooperated with the States members of the League of Arab States, particularly in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

17. Of the three training courses and three workshops conducted in 1991 under the auspices of the United Nations Space Applications Programme, participants from member States of LAS took part in the following: Workshop on Basic Space Science for Developing Countries held in India (30 April-3 May); Workshop on Microwave Remote Sensing Technology, held in Spain (10-14 June); and the Third United Nations International Training Course on Remote-Sensing Applications to Geological Sciences, held in Germany (7-25 October). The Workshop on Space Technologies for Development, a pre-International Astronautical Federation conference, was also attended by participants from LAS member States. The Workshop which was co-sponsored by the United Nations, was held in Canada from

2 to 5 October 1991. The Workshop examined ways in which developing countries could identify specific space technologies and related applications that could make a significant contribution to their priority areas of development at an affordable cost, and develop appropriate programmes in those technologies and applications.

B. Department of Economic and Social Development

18. The Department has been implementing a substantial programme of technical cooperation activities with the League of Arab States as well as with the countries that are members of LAS.

1. Projects undertaken with LAS

19. The Department has undertaken the following two projects with LAS:
(a) Administrative development of the Secretariat General of LAS, and
(b) Assistance to the Population Research and Study Unit.

(a) The first project is aimed at strengthening the overall administrative capacity of the League to enable it to carry out the activities necessary to achieve its objectives in general, and social and economic development in particular. The budget for the project is over US$ 3 million, partly contributed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partly by the Arab Gulf Fund. Under this project, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat is working with LAS in two main areas:

(i) Training of LAS staff;

(ii) Development of computer software and provision of the necessary hardware and equipment;

(b) The second project has been going on for several years. Its purpose is to assist the League of Arab States in strengthening a Population Research and Study Unit within its social affairs divisions in response to the population research and study needs of the LAS secretariat and to serve the Arab countries and the region as a whole in the formulation and implementation of population policies within the context of their socio-economic development strategies and plans. Out of this project, the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD), a survey of child population, was developed with the support of the Arab Gulf Fund and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

20. The Department's participation in the second project is significant in that it provided the Project Manager/Survey Statistician for the overall project: it also provided consultants, as well as training and a portion of the equipment. The Department is also represented in the Steering and Technical Committees involved in planning the project, and provides Headquarters with technical advisory assistance.

21. The PAPCHILD project provides the ministries of health and of social affairs, national child welfare councils and other bodies in the several countries served with research and policy studies with reliable information for formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating maternal and child care.

22. A regional working meeting for users and producers of maternal and child health care information for policy formulation and programming took place at Cairo in January 1992. The meeting was aimed at providing a realistic and diagnostic basis for assisting PAPCHILD in identifying major issues and areas of concern related to health policy implications in the Arab region. Guidelines on maternal and child health policy formulation, programming and monitoring are being prepared in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting and should be available during 1992.

23. During its meeting in March 1992, the PAPCHILD Higher Steering Committee, having expressed its high appreciation and great satisfaction for the work accomplished by PAPCHILD during its first phase, approved the extension of the programme to cover the remaining countries initially listed for the second phase of the programme and extended the implementation period to the end of 1995.

24. Early this year, the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Development signed an agreement of cooperation in the field of technical cooperation with the League of Arab States.

2. Activities with member countries of LAS

25. The Department is also implementing various projects in the Arab League countries which address many key concerns of these countries in the fields of energy, physical infrastructure, mineral resources, water resources, statistics, and public administration.

C. Department of Humanitarian Affairs - Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

26. The League of Arab States was kept informed during the period under review of relief assistance to its member States in which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) was involved. In this connection, UNDRO extended its relief activities in Lebanon until June 1992 and launched appeals for assistance to the country following the snowstorms in February of the current year. An appeal for assistance was also launched in favour of Egypt following the flood caused by the collapse of a dam near Alexandria.

27. Following the earthquake which hit Yemen in November 1991 and the heavy rains which occurred in December of the same year, UNDRO launched an appeal for international assistance.

28. In the area of disaster preparedness and prevention, UNDRO was and still is involved in national projects in Egypt, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

29. In the framework of the UNDRO/UNDP Project of Seismic Risk Reduction in the Mediterranean, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia participated in a second workshop on seismic risk reduction and disaster mitigation which took place in Rome in November 1991. The aim of the workshop was to present and discuss the various countries' approaches in planning seismic risk mitigation and to find out what impact these have had on country planning.

30. In November 1991, UNDRO participated in the United Nations/League of Arab States joint meeting held at Geneva on child welfare and development.

D. United Nations Children's Fund

31. Cooperation between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and LAS focuses on the promotion of the welfare of Arab children and women through the exchange of information and materials; joint participation in meetings on health and social development; joint sponsorship of studies; exchange of visits; and regular consultations. The major areas of cooperation include the following:

(a) Under the aegis of the League of Arab States, and in cooperation with UNICEF and the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (based at Cairo), eminent Arab personalities and scholars and government representatives met at Tunis on 23 and 24 June 1990 and prepared for the leaders of the Arab world a shared statement of purpose on childhood dealing with the achievements of the 1980s and the challenges of the 1990s. This joint Arab document was developed in preparation for the World Summit for Children and contains the shared aspirations and commitments for improving the conditions of children and women in the 1990s.

(b) Since 1988 UNICEF has cooperated with the League of Arab States, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) and UNFPA in the PAPCHILD project. The project has at its core the design, fielding and analysis of a series of country health surveys covering Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The surveys are aimed at examining the health status of children and women and at giving current readings on the levels of infant and child mortality and the determinants of child mortality. The project may be extended beyond 1992 to cover the other remaining Arab countries.

(c) LAS and UNICEF established a joint committee to meet twice a year, alternately at Tunis (now at Cairo) and Amman to discuss matters relating to the cooperation between the two organizations. The areas of cooperation in general are dealt with mainly by the Regional Director, supported by the Regional Office staff as required.

(d) UNICEF attends as observer the meetings of the Arab Council of Health Ministers and of the Arab Council of Social Affairs Ministers and LAS attends as observer the UNICEF Executive Board sessions.

E. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

32. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has continued to undertake activities of direct interest to LAS and its member countries. In particular, in the context of its TRAINMAR programme which is aimed at improving the capacity of developing countries to prepare and conduct maritime and multimodal management training programmes, UNCTAD has continued to cooperate with the League of Arab States. Through the Maritime Transport Academy at Sharjah, the League of Arab States was actively involved in the TRAINMAR programme. In July 1991, the Academy, which had been one of TRAINMAR's main centres, was closed and its functions were transferred to the Arab Maritime Transport Academy at Alexandria. Since the closure of the Sharjah Academy, steps have been taken to broaden the role of the Port Training Centre, a national TRAINMAR centre at Alexandria which works very closely with the League of Arab States maritime academy, to enable that centre to serve better the needs of other Arab States.

33. In November 1991, UNCTAD participated in a joint UNDP/UNCTAD/ITC (International Trade Centre) mission to the Arab region. The mission prepared a report indicating a programme of technical cooperation for regional trade development for possible UNDP technical cooperation in the framework of the fifth UNDP regional programming cycle (1993-1997).

34. With regard to issues related to the economy of the occupied territory, the UNCTAD secretariat has intensified its efforts to promote further cooperation with the General Secretariat of the LAS. There were regular consultations and an exchange of reports with the Economic Department of the LAS secretariat on developments in the economy of the occupied territory. UNCTAD also provided assistance in database development, including the provision of statistical series on the population of the occupied territory, to the Directorate of Social Affairs of the LAS secretariat. UNCTAD prepared an economic time series on the occupied territory for eventual use by the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) Special Data Base Unit, established at the General Secretariat of LAS. Consultations were held on technical assistance projects in areas of mutual concern, including the two project proposals prepared by, or in participation with, UNCTAD for the establishment in the occupied territory of an Investment Evaluation Centre and a Marketing and Export Promotion Centre. Following consultations with the Economic Department of the General Secretariat of LAS on the inter-sectoral project embarked upon by the UNCTAD secretariat for the preparation of a comprehensive study of the economy of the occupied territory, the Economic Department of LAS pledged a financial contribution towards the preparation of that study. The first instalment under that pledge was made available recently to the UNCTAD secretariat. As the preparation of the study is now under way, efforts are being made to cooperate in specific areas of mutual concern including the data-base development mentioned above.

F. United Nations Development Programme

35. The League of Arab States receives technical cooperation support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the League's specialized organizations actively collaborate in the identification, execution and co-financing of several UNDP-funded intercountry development projects in the region.

36. UNDP, through its Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS), is supporting the LAS administrative and management development project, which is co-funded by AGFUND and executed by the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat. UNDP also supported an Arab Regional Information System Network, executed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which builds on previous assistance to establish the Arab League Documentation Centre for the benefit of the countries of the region.

37. The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) is executing two UNDP-funded projects: one is to strengthen research management; the other is to develop oilseed crops. The Arab Telecommunications Union serves on the Steering Committee of a UNDP telecommunications development project. The Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA) has implemented a UNDP-supported project for a network of training institutions in the region.

38. The Arab Labour Organization (ALO) is collaborating closely with UNDP and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to adapt labour administration systems to the emerging needs of its member States. The Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) is cooperating with UNDP, ESCWA and other agencies to establish engineering infrastructures. The Arab Civil Aviation Council (ACAC) collaborated with UNDP in training civil aviation staff of several Arab States, and the Arab Postal Union cooperated in a UNDP-financed project to support the development of postal services in the region.

39. On thematic issues, LAS and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) co-sponsored with UNDP a pan-Arab conference on women's economic roles, convened at Cairo in May 1990. UNDP participated in the sectoral meeting on childhood development between LAS and the United Nations system in November 1991.

G. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

40. Consultations and contacts continue at all levels between the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the LAS secretariat. During his visit to the LAS secretariat at Cairo on 5 May 1992, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA agreed with the Secretary-General of LAS that more direct contact should take place and that a memorandum of understanding between LAS and UNRWA should be concluded, which would enhance and further strengthen the existing cooperation between the two

organizations. The Commissioner-General and other UNRWA officials also maintain regular contact with the Permanent Observers of LAS at Vienna and in New York. The Agency's office at Cairo maintains contact with the LAS secretariat.

41. UNRWA participated in the sectoral meeting on Child Welfare and Development in Arab Countries which took place at Geneva on 25 and 26 November 1991 between LAS and the United Nations system.

42. Arab States have contributed generously to UNRWA special emergency programmes at Gaza and the West Bank. LAS has continued its strong support for UNRWA programmes and is making every effort to urge its member States to increase their contributions to the Agency.

43. UNRWA maintains close contact with LAS member States, especially with the Arab host Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. These Governments are also members of the UNRWA Advisory Commission.

H. World Food Programme

44. A long-standing association between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Governments of member countries of LAS has existed since the inception of the Programme in 1962. During the past 30 years, WFP contribution to development projects and emergency relief operations in Arab countries amounted to US$ 3.5 billion, representing about 30 per cent of overall WFP commitments. WFP current assistance to development projects in LAS member countries is estimated at about $483 million. Of the 32 operational projects in 9 Arab countries, 19 projects are in the field of agriculture, and land improvement and protection, including forestry; 13 are in the field of human resources in support of the activities in the social and educational sectors.

45. Although a large part of WFP resources is allocated to long-term development projects, the Programme is becoming increasingly involved in a growing number of emergency relief operations designed to alleviate food shortages resulting from war, civil strife, drought and national disasters. The greatest commitment by WFP of its emergency resources is to the world's millions of refugees and displaced persons.

46. WFP is presently involved in two large-scale emergency operations worth over $150 million in five Arab states. WFP emergency assistance is delivered to victims of the Gulf War in Iraq and Jordan, while its relief assistance for refugees and victims of civil strife in the Horn of Africa is provided to displaced persons in the Sudan, Djibouti and Yemen. WFP works closely with various non-governmental relief organizations and other United Nations agencies. It coordinates the purchase of commodities, organizes complicated deliveries of food by train, trucks, boat and charters airlift to inaccessible areas.

I. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

47. Cooperation between the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the League of Arab States covered a wide range of activities. In general terms, these activities centred around the following areas:

(a) ESCWA attended for the first time, and as an observer, the 50th meeting of the Economic and Social Council of LAS, first at the expert and permanent representative level, from 2 to 3 February 1992, and subsequently at the ministerial level, on 5 February 1992. It also attended the United Nations/LAS Sectoral Meeting on "Child Welfare and Development in the Arab Countries" held at Geneva, on 25 and 26 November 1991.

(b) Discussions were held on 6 February 1992 between the Executive Secretary of ESCWA and the Assistant Secretaries-General of the economic, social, political and Palestinian affairs offices of LAS. The discussions centred upon strengthening joint activities and cooperation between ESCWA and LAS. Joint activities currently scheduled include the following: preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; coordinated efforts pertaining to the revised System of National Accounts; the Conference on Population and Development in the Arab World, which is a 1993 preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Population (1994); and the high-level Arab regional meeting for children in 1992.

48. In specific terms, joint ESCWA/LAS activities covered the following fields.

Energy

49. ESCWA will, upon request from LAS, offer technical advice to the Arab League representative concerning the fifteenth Congress of the World Energy Council to be held at Madrid, from 20 to 25 September 1992.

Environment

50. ESCWA has cooperated with LAS in the activities listed below.

(a) It cooperated in convening the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, held at Cairo from 10 to 12 September 1991, and in collectively participating in the formulation and adoption of the Arab Declaration on Environment and Development. The Conference was co-funded by UNDP, which also provided funds for the participation of the representatives of the least developed Arab countries. The Conference supported ESCWA efforts in coordinating environment and development activities, including a regional strategy for environment and sustainable development. To this end, ESCWA was active in coordinating activities and consolidating the Arab position for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

(b) ESCWA participated in the establishment of the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) at Damascus, in July 1991, and also in the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment, held at Damascus from 20 to 25 December 1991, to discuss mechanisms for the implementation of the above-mentioned projects and of other priority environmental projects in the Arab countries.

(c) LAS requested ESCWA to organize jointly with the League a workshop on industrial pollution in the Arab world, held at Alexandria, Egypt, from 28 to 30 June 1992, and a workshop on rapid assessment of industrial pollution, to be held at Cairo in November 1992.

(d) Further, ESCWA initiated, in cooperation with LAS, the establishment of an Inter-agency Coordination Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab countries. The first meeting of the Committee was convened at Cairo on 28 and 29 April 1992.

(e) Upon request of LAS, the representative of ESCWA to the Fourth Preparatory Committee of UNCED provided technical assistance to the Arab group attending the Conference on issues pertaining to Agenda 21.

(f) ESCWA was in touch with the chairman of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministers on Environment to coordinate unified Arab positions during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

(g) ESCWA participated in a technical meeting convened by ALO at Cairo in May 1992 to elaborate policies for the improvement of environmental safety standards in the workplace.

Human settlements

51. In order to strengthen the capabilities of national professionals, public officials and administrators to effectively control urban growth, to develop a network of expertise from the region and to promote interregional endeavours, ESCWA undertook the following activities:

(a) It coordinated its efforts with regional organizations such as the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Urban Development Institute, and with national governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning in Yemen, in the logistic and substantive preparations for the holding of the Symposium on Low-Cost Housing in the Arab Region.

(b) It Held meetings with officials from the Economic Commission for Europe, the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, the Commission of the European Communities and the Swiss Centre for Appropriate Technology, to formulate joint activities in various fields of human settlements, notably, the Symposium on Low-Cost Housing in the Arab Region, to be held on 24-28 October 1992, and the Workshop on Environmentally Conscious, Low-Energy Housing, to be held in 1993.

Industry

52. Activities in the area of industry included the following:

(a) The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) organized a meeting of officers responsible for biotechnology in the Arab countries, to be held at Amman from 14 to 16 December 1992;

(b) The twelfth session of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils was convened at Cairo from 10 to 12 December 1991.

Natural resources

53. Joint activities between ESCWA and LAS involved close cooperation with the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) in the area of water, including the exchange of information regarding the development of water data banks in both organizations. ACSAD is also a member of the steering committee of the ESCWA project on assessment of water resources using remote sensing techniques in the ESCWA region.

Statistics

54. Within the context of the agreement on cooperation in statistics between LAS and ESCWA, a number of joint activities were undertaken which included the following:

(a) ESCWA continued its participation in annual meetings of the Arab Standing Committee on Statistics, and is a member of the technical advisory committee for the Pan Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD project). This series of national health surveys is aimed at examining the health status of children and mothers in the Arab world, and at training national professionals.

(b) LAS and ESCWA also co-sponsored the UNDP Pan-Arab Conference on Social and Economic Challenges of the 1990s: Arab Women's Contribution to Development, which was convened at Cairo in May 1990.

(c) The Unified Arab Statistical Abstract will continue to be published jointly by ESCWA and LAS. It is hoped that the compendium of social statistics in the Arab countries will also be published jointly.

55. Within the framework of the agreement signed with the Arab Industrial Development and Minerals Organization (AIDMO) on 24 October 1991, ESCWA and AIDMO will jointly execute the following activities:

(a) Issue a joint publication on industrial statistics;

(b) Organize a joint workshop in the field of industrial statistics, to be held in 1993;

(c) Cooperate in the establishment of industrial databases and in the exchange of information and publications.

J. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

56. Under the programme of the "Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000", the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the League of Arab States and the Government of Egypt are jointly sponsoring the Arab States Regional Conference on National Shelter Strategies, to be held at Cairo from 13 to 17 December 1992. This important conference will facilitate further cooperation among the States members of LAS in formulating and implementing housing strategies as well as in monitoring the performance of the shelter sector.

57. In the field of technical cooperation, despite the Gulf crisis, all UNCHS (Habitat) projects in the Arab States were operational, except those in Somalia and Yemen. Several missions to States members of LAS were fielded immediately upon the end of the Gulf war in preparation for the UNDP fifth cycle.

58. A regional workshop on Training of Trainers in Urban Finance and Management was held at Cairo from 26 to 30 April 1992 for the Mashrig subregion. The workshop analysed past trends affecting municipal management and performance, considered desirable changes required to improve municipal management, identified constraints and problems which could be alleviated by further training and identified mismatches between existing training strategies and training responses required.

K. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

59. Contacts and discussions between the League of Arab States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to explore ways and means of cooperation are continuing. The signing of a specific cooperation agreement between the two organizations is still under consideration.

60. Operational relations in all fields of common concern have been undertaken at Geneva by UNHCR as well as in Egypt by the UNHCR Regional Representative for the Middle East.

L. International Labour Organisation

61. During the period under review, the Regional Office for the Arab States focused its attention on the provision of assistance to members of LAS that were most seriously affected by the Gulf crisis in the West Asia region. Furthermore, the Office made special efforts to reactivate its operations in

the region and actively participated in the preparatory work related to the forthcoming fifth UNDP programme cycle.

62. A number of missions were undertaken by regional advisers in the fields of cooperatives, labour administration and legislation, workers' and employers' activities, vocational rehabilitation and vocational training. The work of the regional advisers included identification and preparation of new technical cooperation projects; technical advisory services; backstopping to the operational projects; organization of, and/or representation at, meetings and seminars; and promotion of international labour standards.

63. A multidisciplinary mission covering vocational training, manpower planning, labour administration, vocational rehabilitation and cooperatives visited the United Arab Emirates to formulate the sectoral programme to be incorporated in the fifth UNDP country programme; preparations were made for similar missions to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic. Technical consultancy missions were also fielded as follows: to Jordan, on small enterprise development and handicrafts development and on training and income-generating activities; to Yemen, on labour market statistics, economic surveys, international labour standards and employment services; to the Syrian Arab Republic, on social security; and to Lebanon, on labour law information. Extrabudgetary projects were implemented in the fields of vocational rehabilitation, cooperatives, employment promotion and manpower policy, handicraft development, hotels and tourism, small enterprise development, labour administration and occupational safety and health.

64. The Regional Arab Programme of Labour Administration (RAPLA) organized three regional seminars on employment services and migration, on labour administration and on labour inspection, and two subregional seminars on labour legislation. Various ILO manuals, including those on international labour standards, labour inspection, vocational guidance and training of trainers were translated into Arabic.

65. Three regional seminars - on the systems approach to training, on modules of employable skills training, and on training policy, planning and coordination - were organized under the Skills Development Programme for Arab Countries (SDEPAC), which also initiated the development and exchange of training materials and the preparation of the modular skill training programmes.

1. Social security activities in LAS

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

66. The ongoing Trust Fund project is being revised and extended to include additional or new assistance in the following fields: actuarial; investment; organization and management, including computerization; and financial/accounting. Provision is also being included for additional fellowships.

Qatar

67. The Social Security Department has participated in a multisectoral mission and has provided a preliminary view on the feasibility of social security schemes in this country.

Syrian Arab Republic

68. A preliminary actuarial mission was carried out in November-December 1991. This is likely to result in a project aimed at carrying out a full actuarial valuation of the social security scheme.

Tunisia

69. The first phase of a World Bank-financed project for the financial/actuarial study of the entire social security system was terminated. The second phase is yet to be implemented.

Yemen

70. ILO has continued its support for the General Corporation of Social Security (GCSS) which it has helped to set up by providing the necessary expertise to cope with the problems associated with institution-building. This expertise involves technical and administrative procedures along with other steps that would lead towards a fully computerized administration of the scheme.

71. Parallel to the assistance it has provided GCSS, ILO has addressed the issues of the civil servants scheme. It has provided experts in the fields of accounting and administration.

Kuwait

72. A trust fund project to carry out the actuarial valuation of the social security scheme (as of 30 June 1992) is under negotiation.

2. Labour information and statistics

73. Following close cooperation between the ILO and LAS on the establishment of the Arab League Documentation Centre, the ILO Central Library and Documentation Branch has, since 1983, provided the League, every six months, with records from its bibliographic database, LABORDOC, which relate to Arab countries.

74. While the Bureau of Statistics does not share any project directly with the League of Arab States, it is involved in a technical cooperation project on the Labour Information Network in Egypt and a regional seminar on surveys of the Palestine Labour Force, organized with the Palestine Central Statistical Office, and to be held in 1992.

3. Technical backup to UNFPA/ILO projects

75. The provision of technical backstopping and support to UNFPA/ILO country technical cooperation projects and to non-project assisted activities was the mainstay of such activities and it received the priority attention of the Regional Adviser. Considerable work was required to support the ongoing projects in Egypt, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Yemen, Somalia and Morocco. These projects were in the fields of human resources development, migration and urbanization, women and development and population and family welfare education in the work setting.

4. Participation in UNFPA programme review missions

76. The ILO Regional Adviser participated in the UNFPA programme review missions to Egypt, the Sudan, Somalia, Morocco, Jordan and Yemen, and represented the ILO at the tripartite meetings of the ongoing projects in these countries.

5. Workshop

77. The workshop on promotion of the participation of disabled persons in cooperatives in countries of the ESCWA region was held at the International Training Centre of the ILO at Turin from 27 to 30 January 1992. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Governments, cooperative movements and non-governmental organizations of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Representatives of Palestine also took part in the workshop, along with the representatives of the workers' and employers' organizations.

6. Development of rural cooperatives

78. The development of rural cooperatives for Yemen was completed in February 1992 after two years of operations. The project contributed to training programmes for personnel of the Cooperative Department and cooperative societies, and developed short and long-term strategies and programmes for improving the structure and operations of the rural cooperatives. Education and extension programmes to increase the cooperative members' awareness of the project were also conducted. A new phase of the project is under preparation.

7. Employment promotion and manpower policies (1989-1991)

79. The long-term objective of this UNDP-funded project for Jordan is to raise the capacity of the Jordanian economy to generate productive jobs, hence reducing the level of unemployment and underemployment. The immediate objective is to establish an institutional framework and to develop the

technical capacity of the Government to design policies for reducing unemployment and for creating sustained employment.

80. The formulation of a second phase of the project is under way. During 1992-1994 the project is expected to consolidate the manpower information system and to continue policy-oriented research and institution-building, while also moving towards identifying sources of labour demand (domestic and international) as well as programmes to promote employment, including self-employment and the integration of women.

81. Since 1987, the ILO has been assisting Mauritania in the implementation of a comprehensive food-for-work project, a UNDP-financed project with the Government as executing agency. The project's main objectives are to implement diversified small-scale rural works aimed at the reduction of external food-aid dependence in the long term, the development of self-help activities, and the promotion of long-term employment and income opportunities.

82. To improve labour absorption in national infrastructure programmes through better use of local resources, the ILO assists the Government of Morocco in implementing a nationwide road maintenance, planning, programming and cost-analysis system. A manual was produced. A two-year technical assistance project to assist a labour-based feeder road programme is being prepared; the project is financed by UNDP.

83. The Employment and Development Department (EMPLOI) of ILO participated in an ILO multidisciplinary mission in February 1992 and prepared a section of the mission report covering the manpower/employment planning and labour market information situation in Qatar, with particular reference to the capabilities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Housing, which had requested the mission.

8. Poverty alleviation and employment creation through special public works programmes

84. The ILO provides technical assistance and training to local level institutions in Kordofan, Darfur and White Nile provinces of the Sudan with the aim of demonstrating, through special rural works programmes funded by UNDP, the feasibility of employment policies and related objectives among special target groups, in line with Convention No. 122 on employment policy, Conventions Nos. 100 and 111 on equal opportunities, etc.

85. The ILO is assisting the Government of the Sudan in the implementation of an area development scheme in North Darfur which seeks to promote sustained, environmentally sound development with the full participation of local communities in the decision-making and implementation processes.

9. Development of micro-enterprises in Kordofan

86. A new project concerned with the development of micro-enterprises has recently become operational as a means of promoting income-generating activities and opportunities for self-employment in rural and urban areas of Kordofan. This project places particular emphasis on enhancing the capacity of several institutions in the Sudan to provide services to small enterprises.

87. The ILO, with assistance from UNDP, established a "poverty line" for Tunisia on the basis of which the poor families were identified. A national programme of direct assistance to 100,000 poor families was launched. At present there is a plan for a second phase of the project which will involve the design of a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction, based on employment creation. This will be undertaken by the ILO in collaboration with UNDP and the Ministry of Social Affairs in Tunisia.

88. EMPLOI participated in an ILO multidisciplinary mission to the United Arab Emirates in May 1991, and analysed the manpower, employment and labour market information situation in the country. Recommendations made concerned, in particular, the strengthening of the capabilities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the fields of manpower/employment planning and labour market information.

Meetings

89. ILO participated at the sectoral meeting between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, on "Child Welfare and Development in the Arab Countries", which was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 25 and 26 November 1991.

90. The Office was represented at all sessions of the Governing Body of the Arab Labour Organization (ALO). It subscribed to the publication in Arabic of the Encyclopaedia of Occupational Safety and Health, and other documentation in Arabic. Cooperation with AGFUND continued and included visits by senior officials to ILO headquarters to discuss future cooperation between the two organizations. During these visits, an agreement to carry out a joint activity of women workers was reached, and preparatory work started in 1991. At the request of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs in the Gulf States, the Office provided technical papers for a seminar it was convening on the subject of the socio-economic impact of the Gulf crisis.

91. Close cooperation and collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations were also maintained. The organizations included the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the General Union of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of the Arab Countries and the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU).

92. ILO representatives continued to attend meetings of a general and specialized nature and the cooperation between ILO and LAS has increased and has taken the form of exchange of information and attendance at meetings and seminars. The volume of ILO operational activities in LAS member States increased significantly in 1991 and covered many social and technological aspects.

M. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. Regional studies

93. During the reporting period, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) prepared several regional studies and technical papers relevant to the work of the League of Arab States. These included a revised and updated version of the paper on "Regional Economic Cooperation for Agricultural Development in the Near East Region", published in 1991. The paper highlights the major difficulties confronting the region at the turn of the decade. A study on "Policy Implications for the Role of Women in Interregional Labour Mobility" has been initiated.

2. Regional meetings

94. As a follow-up to the workshop held at Damascus in July 1990 on "Orienting Curricula of Agricultural Intermediate Institutes and Secondary Schools in Syria to the Needs of Rural Development", a project on "Improved Agricultural Education at Junior College and Secondary School Levels" was formulated in 1991, in close collaboration with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD).

95. At the request of the Government of Yemen, a national workshop was organized by FAO at San'a from 2 to 9 October 1991 on "Linkage between Agricultural Technical Training, Research and Extension". The AOAD office in Yemen participated in the proceedings of the workshop and provided valuable technical input.

96. At the invitation of the Arab Federation of Food Industries, the FAO Regional Office for the Near East attended the Third Arab Conference on Food Canning Industry, held in Tunisia from 9 to 12 December 1991. A FAO paper on "Fish Canning and Consumption in the Arab Countries" was presented at the Conference.

97. The FAO Regional Office for the Near East also participated in the Eleventh Session of the General Assembly of the Arab Federation of Fish Producers (AFFP) held in Tunisia from 11 to 12 December 1991. The main discussions were centred on present and future cooperation between AFFP and the FAO Fish Marketing Information, Promotion and Technical Advisory Services for Arab Countries (INFOSAMAK) project. An outline of future cooperation was drawn up in order to coordinate activities of both organizations.

98. The FAO Regional Office for the Near East participated in a Symposium on Small Farmers' Development in the Arab Region, organized by AOAD at Cairo, from 2 to 4 February 1992. A FAO paper entitled "Organization and Management of Agricultural Marketing Services for Small Farmers in the Near East" was presented at the Symposium.

99. The collaboration between FAO and the League of Arab States continued, as in the past, in reciprocal attendance at high-level technical meetings. Invitations to meetings of the FAO statutory bodies were extended to the LAS subsidiary bodies. AOAD attended the Fourth Session of the Near East Agriculture Commission, held in Jordan in December 1991, and ACSAD attended the Fourth Session of the Near East Economic and Social Policy Commission held in the Syrian Arab Republic in October 1991.

3. Technical cooperation

100. FAO cooperation with AOAD and AFESD continued with regard to agricultural statistics in the Sudan. The contribution of FAO included the fielding of two consultants in agricultural statistics. Funding of an agricultural census is also being sought.

101. In forestry, FAO is promoting the Programme on Genetic Resources of Arboreal Species for the Improvement of Rural Living in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas, which is of relevance to the LAS subsidiary bodies. FAO was actively involved in the meetings of the Greenbelt Project for the Arab States of North Africa, held in Tunisia in May 1991 and at Cairo in June 1991.

102. In the area of marketing and rural finance, FAO cooperated with the Arab Association of Fertilizer Producers. The FAO Research Development Centre also cooperated with AOAD and ACSAD in this field.

103. Cooperation continued between the FAO INFOSAMAK Project and AFESD in Bahrain. Phase II of INFOSAMAK is co-financed by UNDP and AFESD. Contacts are being made with AFESD to co-finance phase III of the two-year project which is scheduled to commence in July 1992.

104. Contacts are being made with the Arab Trade Financing Programme, sponsored by the Arab Monetary Fund at Abu Dhabi, in order to reach a formula for cooperation between the Programme and the INFOSAMAK Project after UNDP assistance for the project ceases. Integration is one of the options under consideration.

105. Fisheries trade statistics and market information specifically in the Arab world, as in the world in general, are regularly provided by INFOSAMAK to several LAS specialized organizations. These organizations consist of the Arab Federation of Fish Producers, the Arab Trade Financing Programme, the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development, and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

4. Exchange of information

106. Exchange of information continued during the period under review through the exchange of FAO and LAS publications in the fields of agriculture, trade, fertilizer, fisheries and forestry. FAO has made significant efforts to issue its publications in Arabic to facilitate this exchange of information.

N. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

107. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is continuing to cooperate with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). To this end, a joint UNESCO/ALECSO Commission met at UNESCO headquarters in May 1992 to discuss cooperation between the two bodies. At the conclusion of that meeting, a document setting out the areas in which they intend to embark on cooperative activities was signed by the two Directors-General. UNESCO cooperation with LAS will be pursued in the following areas.

1. Education

108. Cooperation between UNESCO and LAS through AGFUND currently covers pre-school education, women's training and special education. UNESCO has executed a pre-school education project in Saudi Arabia together with AGFUND and the Saudi Government; three training centres have been established, one each at Jedda, Riyadh and recently in the eastern region. During the visit of H.R.H. Prince Talal to the UNESCO General Conference, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Director-General of UNESCO and Prince Talal to expand the pre-school project into six Arab countries. In addition, UNESCO cooperates with LAS in other areas, such as literacy and adult and non-formal education; the programme of education for the prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); and the programme "Universalization and Renewal of Primary Education and Eradication of Adult Illiteracy in the Arab States by the Year 2000" (ARABUPEAL).

2. Sciences

109. In the field of science and technology, UNESCO cooperates mainly with ALECSO and ACSAD through its Regional Office for Science and Technology for the Arab States (ROSTAS).

3. Culture

110. Within the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development, ALECSO submitted, under the UNESCO Participation Programme for 1990-1991, a project entitled "Study within the context of the World Decade for Cultural Development: Socio-economic policies in the Arab world with a special

emphasis on their characteristics and technical requirements" which received the label "Activity of the Decade". ALECSO has been associated with the implementation of activities related to the international campaign for safeguarding the cultural heritage of mankind such as those in San'a and Shibam in Yemen.

111. UNESCO cooperation with LAS will be strengthened during this biennium through joint actions with cultural and scientific institutions of all regions aimed at promoting the development of the Arab culture.

4. Communication

112. The General Information Programme of UNESCO is working in close cooperation with the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) on a project funded by UNDP (RAB/86/010) with the objective of creating an information network (ARIS-NET) in the Arab region.

113. Finally, most of the activities which take the form of joint meetings, seminars, conferences, workshops and exchange of information and consultations in the fields of education and sciences are carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Education Bureau for the Arab States (UNEDBAS), the International Bureau of Education (IBE) and ROSTAS.

O. International Civil Aviation Organization

114. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has maintained close cooperation with the League of Arab States, particularly through the ICAO Middle East Regional Office at Cairo on matters relating to civil aviation. In September 1991, the President of the Council of ICAO addressed a meeting of the LAS Civil Aviation Committee, held at the level of Presidents and Directors General of Civil Aviation of Arab States. ICAO participated in subsequent meetings, a major purpose of which was to recommend the revival of an Arab civil aviation body, inasmuch as the former Arab Civil Aviation Council had ceased operations in 1989. The Economic and Social Council of LAS subsequently agreed to establish within the League of Arab States, a civil aviation body. ICAO looks forward to working in cooperation with that body, as it did in the past, in order to ensure the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation in the region.

115. The League of Arab States is invited to relevant ICAO meetings. It was invited to the world-wide Air Transport Colloquium held in April 1992 and is also invited to the twenty-ninth Session of the Assembly of ICAO which opens on 22 September 1992.

P. World Health Organization

116. The World Health Organization (WHO) continued its consultation/cooperation with the League of Arab States as follows:

(a) Implementing the PAPCHILD project to cover all the other member States;

(b) Processing the Arabization of medical education;

(c) Strengthening the WHO publication programmes which produce standardization of medical terminology in Arabic;

(d) Updating and following up the implementation of the strategy for health development in the Arabic world;

(e) Strengthening and implementing the priority areas agreed upon in Arab strategy, especially in AIDS programmes, essential drugs, blood transfusions, protection from radiation and environmental health.

1. Strategy for health development in the Arab world

117. With the assistance of member States of LAS, WHO is updating the national health strategies for Health for All by the Year 2000. Both WHO and member States are trying to overcome the constraints and difficulties involved in this multisectoral activity. The evaluation of the Health for All strategy by all countries took place during 1991.

2. AIDS

118. WHO and the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) have been deeply involved in the preparation of the Arab strategy for prevention and control of AIDS. Regional activities already implemented and planned cover the various activities set in the Arab strategy.

119. The Regional Office, considering the importance of blood transfusion, has organized a Regional Workshop on Immunodeficiency Virus Blood Safety in which all Arab countries of the region participated. WHO supports national programmes which ensure the safety of blood through laboratory screening and gives top priority to its programmes in this area in collaboration with countries of the region.

3. Essential drugs

120. Collaboration between WHO and LAS member States lies in the following areas: (a) formulation of an Arab drug policy; (b) coordination and development of an Arab drug industry; (c) compilation of an Arab pharmacopoea;

(d) establishment of a network of collaborating quality-control laboratories; and (e) setting up of an Arab drug research centre. A suitable plan of action will have to be prepared to execute these activities.

4. Blood transfusion

121. In line with EMRO policy, an agreement between AGFUND and WHO was signed to establish a project for the development of blood transfusion services in 11 countries of the eastern Mediterranean region. The project is aimed at making available safe blood and blood derivatives to the needy population. Of the group of countries identified for this project, some are in great need of immediate support for the strengthening of their national blood transfusion services.

5. Protection from radiation

122. EMRO is already collaborating with some Arab countries, namely Egypt, Yemen, Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic in providing film badge services and TLD capsules for monitoring and controlling radiation protection in medical fields.

6. Environmental health activities

123. The Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) at Amman has, in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada, established a water, sanitation and environmental health information network called CEHANET. CEHANET has made contacts with the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC), especially for Arabized information tools. CEHANET has developed an Arabic thesaurus of water supply and sanitation. Also, through a major intercountry water supply and sanitation programme in support of Decade activities, which is assisted by AGFUND, substantial support in the areas of promotion, manpower development, women's involvement, etc., has been provided to 18 Arab States. As part of the "Healthy Cities Action", projects and programmes for UNDP funding have been prepared in order to establish linkages between Arab cities.

7. Maternal and child health activities in the field of youth

124. WHO and UNICEF organized jointly the Intercountry Workshop on Youth and Health Development, held at Amman from 18 to 23 December 1989. It was attended by responsible officials in the Ministries of Health and Youth from 15 Arab countries: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. Topics discussed included health and health-related problems of youth, promotion of young people's health, and involvement of youth and youth organizations in health development.

8. United Nations/LAS meeting

125. WHO attended the meeting between the United Nations system and LAS on child survival, protection and development in the Arab countries, held at Geneva on 25 and 26 November 1991.

Q. World Bank

126. The World Bank continues to support economic and social programmes in individual LAS member countries through its lending and selected activities. In fiscal year 1991, the Bank committed over US$ 1.6 billion to development programmes in these countries. This assistance was concentrated on the priority areas of education, population, health and nutrition, development finance, industry, transport and adjustment.

R. World Meteorological Organization

127. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) concluded working arrangements with the League of Arab States in 1972, the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) in 1978 and with ALECSO in 1982. By these agreements, LAS, ACSAD and ALECSO are invited to participate in the secretariat of WMO constituent bodies as observers. WMO assistance and technical cooperation activities in the member countries of LAS continue to use resources made available by UNDP, the WMO regular budget and its voluntary cooperation programme. A number of projects on manpower development, water resources, climate assessment, hydrology and meteorology were implemented in 1991 in Algeria, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

128. The assistance provided by WMO was aimed at strengthening the capabilities of the national meteorological and hydrological services in the member countries of LAS to provide the necessary information and data for the socio-economic development projects including protection of life and property; at monitoring climatic changes; and at protecting the atmospheric environment.

129. In addition to the above, assistance was provided within the framework of the WMO voluntary cooperation programme and its regular budget in the form of expert services, spare parts, short and long-term fellowships in some countries. Further, an intercountry project for the transfer of technology and the improvement of TCDC among the member countries in the field of operational hydrology was completed in 1990 and was implemented jointly by WMO and ACSAD.

S. International Maritime Organization

130. The technical cooperation activities of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with member countries of LAS in the field of maritime training, maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships include the

project on assistance to the Association of African Maritime Training Institutes (AAMTI) (RAB/86/023).

131. The project promotes horizontal cooperation in the area of maritime training among the following Arab States: Algeria, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Somalia and Tunisia.

132. Project activities carried out in 1991 included the common guidelines on a harmonized system of education, examination and certification and fact-finding tours to AAMTI to assess development needs and the potential for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), as well as to establish a common database system introduction on a regional basis of IMO model courses. An IMO/AAMTI Congress was held on 25 and 26 November 1991 with all AAMTI members with a view to elaborating a plan of action for the implementation of a harmonized system of education, examination and certification.

T. World Intellectual Property Organization

133. In the field of industrial property, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) executed several regional UNDP-financed projects with the objective of strengthening the basis of the technological development of the Arab countries, through the enforcement of the industrial property system and the promotion of its effective use. In July 1991, a Regional Introductory Training Course on Industrial Property for Arab Countries was organized at Cairo by WIPO in cooperation with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) of Egypt and with the assistance of UNDP. A total of 52 participants from nine countries (Egypt, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen) attended the course.

134. Expert missions visited the region on a regular basis and WIPO advised some of the Arab countries on the revision and updating of their industrial property legislation. WIPO also assisted the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the formulation of a draft uniform patent law for the States concerned and proposed the necessary implementing regulations.

135. In the field of the International Patent Classification (IPC), WIPO assisted the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC) in the Arabization of volume 9 of IPC which has been distributed to all Arab States.

136. In the field of copyright, WIPO has cooperated with ALECSO and the Governments in the region through the organization of seminars, training courses and expert meetings. Assistance was also provided to some of the countries in establishing or revising their legislation on copyright and neighbouring rights.

137. A cooperation agreement was signed between WIPO and ALECSO in 1983 following the visit of the Director General of WIPO to the headquarters of LAS, the Arab Broadcasting Union and ALECSO.

U. International Fund for Agricultural Development

138. At the end of 1991, assistance by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the Near East and North Africa region under the regular programme amounted to approximately US$ 509.02 million for 46 projects in 11 countries. Of the total project costs of US$ 3,003.35 million, IFAD contributed 17 per cent, other external donors 30 per cent and the recipient countries 53 per cent. In 1991, under the regular programme, the Near East and North Africa region received approximately US$ 11.85 million in assistance for the Sidi M'Hadeb Agricultural and Fisheries Project in Tunisia. The objective of the project was to halt pasture, forest and water resource degradation through a self-help approach encompassing the establishment of community groups and herders' associations, which would participate in the planning and implementation of project activities. The total cost of the project was US$ 37.2 million, of which IFAD share was 31.9 per cent. Other external donors provided 35.6 per cent and the recipient countries 32.5 per cent.

V. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

139. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued to cooperate with the League of Arab States particularly during the last few years.

140. UNIDO has undertaken various activities with the Arab regional organizations dealing with industrial activities, namely, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO), the Arab Railway Union (ARU), the Arab Union for Cement and Building Materials (AUCBM), the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, the Arab Federation of Food Industries (AFFI) and the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU). It has implemented jointly with AIDMO a number of projects including national, subregional and regional workshops.

141. UNIDO also participated actively in the deliberations of the executive board meeting of AIDMO which took place at Cairo, in October 1991.

142. UNIDO and the Arab regional organizations cooperated in the Special Programme for Industrial Development in the Arab Countries drawn up two years ago, which had the following priorities:

(a) Training and development of manpower;

(b) Standardization and quality control;

(c) Development of technological functions and capacities;

(d) Marketing and trade in industrial products;

(e) Industrial information.

143. Direct cooperation with the Economic Department of the League of Arab States which had been initiated in 1991 led to fruitful results. LAS agreed to contribute to the Special Programme for Arab Countries by means of preliminary financial commitments. LAS also took part in the last inter-agency meeting on the special programme for industrial development in the Arab countries held in February 1992 by UNIDO. At that meeting it was decided that LAS, AIDMO, ESCWA and UNIDO were to act as the sponsoring and collaborating organizations for the special programme for industrial development in the Arab countries. Furthermore, it was decided that a meeting would be held at LAS headquarters at Cairo in July 1992 for these organizations to discuss a number of projects, including the mobilization of resources for the special programme.

W. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

144. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has continued to cooperate with States members of the League of Arab States, both contracting parties to the Agreement or applying the GATT principles on a de facto basis, by providing technical assistance with a view to facilitating their more effective participation in the GATT trading system. Assistance has also been provided to those members of LAS which participate in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

145. In addition, GATT will continue to provide training facilities in its commercial policy courses to officials from member States of LAS.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/452
29 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 61 (f)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	2
II.	SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES	4 - 19	2

92-44559 3508j (E) 300992

300992

/...

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Following the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development held in New York from 24 August to 11 September 1987, the General Assembly, in its resolution 42/45 of 30 November 1987, requested the Secretary-General to take action through the appropriate organs, within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the Conference.

2. In pursuance of paragraph 35 (ix) b of the Final Document of the Conference, 1/ the Secretary-General established, in December 1987, a high-level intra-Secretariat task force having the following composition: the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, Chairman; the Under-Secretary-General, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information; the Assistant Secretary-General, Office for Research and the Collection of Information; and the Under-Secretary-General, Department for Disarmament Affairs, convener. The composition of the task force will need to be reviewed in the light of the recent organizational changes in the Secretariat.

3. The Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, inter alia, on the specific activities carried out by the task force (see A/46/527). The Assembly, in its resolution 46/36 C of 6 December 1991, welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and requested him to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the Conference and to report to it at its forty-seventh session.

II. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

4. In accordance with the priorities established by the task force for the period 1990-1993 (see A/45/592 and A/46/527), the specific activities described below were undertaken under severe resource constraints.

5. The Office for Disarmament Affairs participated in the Conference on International Cooperation in Peaceful Use of Military Industrial Technology, which was convened, in cooperation with the China Association for Peaceful Use of Military Industrial Technology and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, in Beijing from 22 to 26 October 1991. The Conference was attended by many participants from over 30 countries.

6. At that Conference it was pointed out that as more countries began to deal with the actual process of conversion, technical issues were being raised and some parts of the United Nations system, including the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), were dealing with specific aspects of the problem. A number of

participants emphasized that the United Nations role in promoting the exchange of national experiences was desirable, but not sufficient by itself to facilitate the transition from a military to a civilian economy. Several participants sought a more active role for the United Nations.

7. The Conference did not adopt any declaration. Nevertheless, some of the views expressed during the discussion are set out below:

(a) Faced with a shrinking global military industrial sector, conversion to civilian production was only one among many possible courses of action that major military producers might take. Market economies, in particular, had resorted to the closure of plants as part of the conglomeration of several manufacturing units, to exports, or to a combination of these measures, with some trying to enter the disarmament industry through development of verification techniques or weapons disposal processes;

(b) National policies of converting from military to civilian production did not, by themselves, guarantee that programmes of military modernization would not be pursued;

(c) For countries that were actually converting, the process had involved more than technical re-engineering. Cost-effectiveness, economies of scale, import dependence and the time factor were important considerations for a successful conversion project;

(d) National attempts at conversion were difficult to sustain in isolation from other important features of the world economy, such as access to global markets and transfer of technology.

8. An International Conference on Conversion: Opportunities for Development and Environment, jointly organized by the Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the German Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the State of North Rhine Westphalia and the Institute of Environmental Protection Policy of the University of Dortmund, Germany, was held at Dortmund from 24 to 27 February 1992. The Conference attracted the participation of over 200 senior political leaders, industrialists, scientists and technologists from 35 countries, and representatives of the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies that are currently engaged in exploring practical measures for promoting the conversion of military facilities and capabilities for sustainable human benefits.

9. The deliberations at the Conference reflected the growing awareness of possible environmental benefits of conversion at the highest levels of Government and industrial and research establishments.

10. During the discussion in plenary and working group meetings, and in written presentations, a number of concrete proposals emerged for enhancing the prospects of implementing conversion schemes. These are in the nature of actions that can be taken at the international and national levels. The

proposals fall mainly under the categories of a set of studies, information exchange and clearing-house systems, major publications, follow-up conferences on specific issues, a variety of technological conversion schemes and innovative institutional designs.

11. The Office for Disarmament Affairs participated in a one-day workshop on linking financial flows to military expenditures: development-enhancing or unwarranted interference, organized by the Overseas Development Council in Washington, D.C., on 28 January 1992.

12. The workshop brought together experts from some major donor countries, representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations and scholars from countries receiving developmental assistance to discuss a position paper prepared by the Overseas Development Council which dealt with the major developments leading to the current debate on making reductions in military spending a condition for receiving developmental assistance.

13. It was noted that, ever since its introduction two years ago, this has been a controversial subject, since objections to the linkage between arms reduction and developmental objectives have been raised not only by the recipients of aid but also, as was evident at the workshop, by some bilateral donors.

14. Officials from development aid programmes pointed out that reduction in military spending by the recipients was one among several considerations governing aid policies. They stated that while developmental assistance policies favoured a linkage with military spending reduction, withholding such assistance on the grounds of excessive military expenditure was a decision that in most donor countries was governed by other political considerations.

15. It was pointed out that development aid agencies had neither the requisite information nor the expertise to assess the appropriate level of military spending among the developing countries. For the present, those agencies were more concerned about pointing out the opportunity cost of public expenditures and emphasizing the desirability of efficient management of national resources. Although available data had indicated no direct linkage between lower levels of military spending and higher performance in the observance of human rights, environmental protection and democratic institution-building among the developing countries, it was suggested that donor countries could be encouraged to explore the possibility of putting together aid packages for a small group of recipients in "hard to decline" deals encouraging lower levels of military spending.

16. There was a generally shared feeling that in view of the highly political nature of issues related to national security, including military expenditures, the United Nations was an appropriate forum for promoting military restraint and for dealing with the practical problems arising from information related to arms reductions. In this respect, a brief summary of recent developments at the United Nations in this field was provided.

17. An international conference is to be organized, in collaboration with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Outer Space Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNIDO and other interested United Nations entities, by the Science, Technology, Environment and Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development, together with the Government of the Russian Federation, in Moscow, from 12 to 16 October 1992. This conference will be based on contributions from experts in the areas of conversion and disarmament, science and technology policies, technology assessment of aerospace technologies and development financing, as well as on the results of the conferences on conversion held in Beijing in October 1991 and at Dortmund in February 1992.

18. The Department of Public Information has continued to carry out its public information activities concerning disarmament and development, including their relationship. A television programme entitled "Arms for arms" was produced by the Department in June 1991 for the weekly series UN in Action. The programme was based on the decision of the United Nations that the scrapped arms could be utilized to serve the process of peace and reconstruction. Ten tons of metal were donated to the World Rehabilitation Clinic in Honduras, to be turned into artificial limbs for the region's war disabled. The donation has enabled the Rehabilitation Fund to cut manufacturing costs for otherwise very expensive prostheses. It has also reduced production time, since parts of the guns can be taken out and used immediately.

19. This issue was also touched upon in a number of Department of Public Information documentary programmes, broadcast magazine segments and news items, such as: "Indonesia applies nuclear techniques to economic development" (Puntos cardinales, June 1991); "Using military resources to protect the environment" (Scope, January 1992); "Nuclear disarmament and management of the environment in Africa" (Perspectives internationales, May 1992); "Disarmament and the new world order" (Puntos cardinales, May 1992); and "Disarmament and development" (Naciones Unidas en accion, May 1992).

Notes

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/453
18 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 27

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	2
II.	CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION	3 - 4	2
III.	COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	5 - 88	3
IV.	COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS	89 - 99	23

92-44962 3389c (E) 141092 *161092*

/...

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 26 November 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/20 by which, inter alia, it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (A/46/468 and Add.1 and 2) and of his efforts to strengthen this cooperation and to implement the relevant resolutions. It noted with appreciation the increasing and continued participation of OAU in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and its constructive contribution to that work and also the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAU to reactivate the consultative mechanism between the two organizations, commended the continued efforts of OAU to promote multilateral cooperation and economic integration among African States and requested the United Nations system to continue to lend its support to those efforts.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly urged all Member States and regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations to provide economic and technical assistance to African countries of asylum to enable them to withstand the heavy burden imposed on their limited resources and weak infrastructure by the presence in their countries of large numbers of refugees. The Assembly reaffirmed that the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) 1/ would necessitate the full participation of the international community, in particular of the Governments, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and emphasized the importance and the need to ensure follow-up to and monitoring and implementation of the New Agenda in accordance with General Assembly decisions. It called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work in close coordination with the Secretary-General of OAU, in particular on follow-up to and review and evaluation of the implementation of the New Agenda. It urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to extend their support and cooperation to the member States and the Secretary-General of OAU for the effective organizational arrangement and smooth functioning of the African Economic Community.

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

3. On 4 October 1991, President Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria addressed the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/PV.22). In his address, President Babangida reviewed the political, economic and social developments in Africa. He discussed efforts by Africa to resolve the continent's conflicts, including conflicts in Liberia, Rwanda and the Horn of Africa. He also discussed the establishment of the African Economic Community.

4. During the period under review, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of OAU, acting within the framework of General Assembly resolution 45/21 of 20 November 1990 and in the exercise of their good offices, continued their efforts towards achieving a solution to the question of Western Sahara.

III. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat

5. The Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat has been strongly committed to assisting Africa in its efforts for growth and development. Project delivery in Africa reached a record high in 1991, amounting to $85 million or about 47 per cent of the Department's total technical cooperation delivery for the year. Three main areas received primary attention: institution-building; human resources development; and natural resources exploration, exploitation and management. Within this context, the Department emphasized macroeconomic policy inputs, integrated rural development and effective and durable utilization of natural resources.

6. The Department has stationed planning teams in many African countries in projects executed by the Department and funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Department has been heavily involved in related advisory services funded by the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation.

7. In the sector of science and technology, the Department is undertaking, in close cooperation with the OAU secretariat, a case study and an analysis of the role of science and technology in enhancing industrialization and economic integration among countries in the new African Economic Community.

8. The Department has sought to participate actively in the reviews of assistance to African countries, as it believes it has much to offer. In 1991, it was entrusted with substantive work in relation to aid coordination and management activities in several African countries. As to the follow-up to the New Agenda for African Economic Recovery and Development, the Department is involved in related technical support.

9. In view of the extraordinary difficulties facing the least developed countries (LDCs) and the priority assigned to them, the Department has been engaged in many activities to help cope with the development challenges that will determine their future. It has expanded its assistance to LDCs in various sectors. In 1991, this amounted to about 400 projects totalling expenditures of about $65 million. Guidelines for the use of the Department's allocation of funds from the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation give special consideration to the needs of LDCs. This has enabled the Department to respond to requests from LDCs for numerous advisory and

other technical missions covering project preparation, management and implementation, resource mobilization, strengthening of institutional infrastructure, training, national budget preparation, regional planning and integrated rural development.

10. An innovative effort, begun in 1990 and funded by the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation and Japan, is the initiative by the Department and Japan for Financing the Human, Institutional, Technical and Management Capacities of Developing Countries in Development Planning (with a special focus on Africa). Commonly known as the "Africa Initiative", this project supports workshops, needs assessment studies and upgrading of planning institutions. In 1991, an interregional workshop on new approaches in regional planning was convened in Senegal. In order to set the substantive framework for the interregional symposium on promoting accelerated development in Africa on perspectives from the Asian experience, scheduled for early 1992, a preliminary session was held in 1991 in Malaysia. This gathering was used to launch a series of research studies comparing development strategies and policies in the two regions. A series of evaluations of the effect and impact of technical cooperation projects in planning and economic management in selected countries has also been under way, as have preparations for a 1992 workshop on long-term perspective planning. The entire endeavour is aimed at producing useful findings and recommendations, and enhancement of the skills of a number of senior officials engaged in planning and economic management.

B. Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat - Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

11. Cooperation during the period under review was focused mainly on two issues: the OAU Regional Meeting on Disasters and implementation of the Disaster Management Training Programme in Africa.

12. The objective of the OAU Regional Meeting on Disasters was to identify project priorities at the national, subregional and regional levels, for implementation during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in cooperation with the United Nations system and the international community. The idea of the meeting received the full support of an inter-agency meeting held in Geneva from 25 to 27 April 1990 with the participation of a number of United Nations offices and agencies, including the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO). During this meeting, UNDRO pledged to provide a consultant to the OAU secretariat to study the different aspects of disasters in Africa and subsequently to help in the preparation of the regional meeting. At the request of the OAU secretariat, a consultant from UNDRO travelled several times to Addis Ababa to assist in this endeavour. Two UNDRO staff members travelled to six African countries simultaneously (one per subregion) to collect information in support of the meeting. The six countries were Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti and United Republic of Tanzania. They met in Djibouti with representatives of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and

Development (IGADD) and in Burkina Faso with the Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). A questionnaire in the English and French languages was prepared by UNDRO and forwarded to African States and relevant African organizations and institutions for collecting pertinent information on disaster preparedness and mitigation which was used as an important tool in the preparation as well as in the deliberations of the meeting.

13. In addition, UNDRO also prepared, at the request of OAU, five papers on policies, institution-building and legislation for land use management in disaster-prone countries, flood and cyclone disasters in Africa, training for disaster management, funding for disaster mitigation programmes, and a background on disasters (regional and subregional cooperation, strengthening of existing disaster management capacities) which were presented at the meeting.

14. The Disaster Management Training Programme in Africa was launched in July 1990 under the joint management of UNDP and UNDRO. The programme aims at developing and improving the technical capability of African countries in disaster management through the strengthening of the existing mechanisms and training in vulnerable African countries. A Plan of Action was established in 1991 and subsequently launched during the OAU Regional Meeting on Disasters in Africa, held at Addis Ababa from 13 to 17 April 1992 The programmes included workshops in 16 anglophone countries. It is expected that by the end of 1992 workshops for some francophone countries will also be organized. Participation of an OAU official in the training-trainer's course is envisaged.

15. Finally, OAU representatives have been invited regularly to participate in seminars organized or sponsored by UNDRO on matters related to natural disasters and emergencies.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

16. Cooperation between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and OAU has been further strengthened over the past year owing to the close working relationship in preparation for the convening of an OAU-sponsored International Conference on Assistance to African Children.

17. The idea for the convening of the proposed conference was contained in a landmark resolution adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU during its meeting, held from 3 to 5 June 1991 at Abuja, Nigeria. The resolution on the Implementation of the African Decade for Child Survival, Protection and Development is already leading to concrete action at the national level. Out of 128 countries in the world that, as at 31 March 1992, are reported to be preparing long-term national programmes of action, 45 are member States of OAU. In addition, out of 33 countries that have completed the formulation of national programmes of action, seven, namely, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Mali, Namibia, Tunisia, Senegal and the Sudan are States members of OAU.

18. UNICEF continues to regard Africa as a corporate priority. In its country programmes, UNICEF has been providing practical support for innovative actions in maternal and child health. The organization is now focusing on long-term goals for children in the 1990s.

19. As called for in the OAU resolution on the Implementation of the African Decade for Child Survival, Protection and Development, an International Conference on Assistance to African Children is to be convened from 25 to 27 November 1992 at Dakar. The proposed conference, which is a major follow-up activity to the World Summit for Children, will be structured as a dialogue between Africa, the donors and the international community. Additional resources will be mobilized both from within Africa and the donor community.

20. With regard to the first annual commemoration of the Day of the African Child, many countries in Africa, with assistance from UNICEF, hosted a variety of special educational and cultural activities. The Day of the African Child, which is in memory of the uprising and the massacre of the children of Soweto, South Africa, in 1976, is an annual event offering Governments, non-governmental organizations, international agencies, the media, the general public, and children in particular, a special opportunity to focus on the needs of Africa's children and the measures which are being taken to meet those needs.

21. A strategy paper issued by UNICEF sought the collaboration of Governments of member States and the Ministries of Health, Education, Youth, Women, Culture and Sports, as well as religious leaders, parliamentarians, artists and intellectuals, non-governmental organizations and the media. Suggested activities include, a children's parliament, a children's forum and a conference or symposium on the plight of the African child. Most of these activities achieved unexpected levels of success.

22. Innovative activities for the first commemoration of the Day of the African Child were organized by 48 of the 51 member States of OAU. A wide variety of programmes and events took place as 11 nations based their programmes on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and six commemorated the preparation of a National Programme of Action as called for in the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children, and restated in the relevant OAU resolution. Presidents or Prime Ministers took an active role in activities in nine countries, while in several others the first ladies took an active role. Media coverage of the Day of the African Child was generally excellent.

23. In 1992, in particular, the Day of the African Child offers an opportunity for linking advocacy activities to a review of progress made in the preparatory process of the national programmes of action and the International Conference on Assistance to African Children. UNICEF is working closely with OAU for the successful outcome of the international conference.

D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

24. In the area of trade, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has continued to carry out technical cooperation activities in African countries on the generalized system of preferences (GSP), export policies, privatization and restructuring of trade-related public enterprises, trade policy reforms and services. In close cooperation with OAU, and within the framework of its African multilateral trade negotiations project (RAF/87/157), the UNCTAD secretariat has continued to extend technical assistance to African participants in the Uruguay Round. This involved giving direct support to African negotiators in Geneva and sensitizing African policy makers on key negotiating issues through brainstorming sessions, seminars and participating in the intergovernmental meetings organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and OAU. UNCTAD also participated in the eleventh session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade and contributed to the deliberations of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State or Government at its twenty-seventh session, held at Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991 on the Uruguay Round and trade issues in general. These efforts were aimed at achieving a deeper understanding of the complex issues facing African negotiators in the Uruguay Round and enhancing their negotiating capacity with a view to defending their trade and economic interests.

25. In the area of commodities, the UNCTAD secretariat, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/178 B of 19 December 1990, prepared a draft study on the implementation of diversification in the commodity sector in Africa at the national, subregional and regional levels with the support of the international community. The task of preparing the final version of this study was assigned to a special Inter-Agency Task Force, under the coordination of ECA. The OAU secretariat was very closely involved in the workings of the Task Force, and its representatives actively participated in all three meetings of the drafting groups. The final study (A/46/324/Add.1) was appended to the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) which was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

26. OAU has expressed an interest and volunteered to co-sponsor technical assistance activities focusing on exchanges of experience to assist developing countries in improving their commodity-related export policies in terms of interacting with international marketing systems, assisting the diversification of commodity exports and adapting to liberalization of commodity export marketing. A project involving activities in this area is being developed in the UNCTAD secretariat.

27. UNCTAD actively participated in and made substantive contributions to the OAU ministerial meetings and the preparatory meetings of experts leading to the ministerial meetings and meetings of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. In particular, UNCTAD participated in the preparation of the African submission to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the United Nations

General Assembly on the final review and appraisal of UNPAAERD. Also, the UNCTAD secretariat has continued to contribute actively to the work of the bodies dealing with the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. UNCTAD participated in the work of the All-Africa Trade Fair Organizing Committee which has assigned to it the task of undertaking an evaluation of the commercial aspects of the trade fair to be held in September 1992 at Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

28. UNCTAD has continued to provide comprehensive support, including advisory services and technical assistance, to efforts at economic cooperation and integration of groupings of developing countries and their secretariats in Africa. In this connection, UNCTAD contributed to the work, and participated in various meetings, of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee to consider and finalize the draft treaty establishing the African Economic Community and has expressed its readiness to participate in the activities leading to the establishment of the Community. UNCTAD is currently making contributions to the various protocols which have been drafted and are being finalized.

29. Giving practical effect to economic cooperation and integration as well as to the expansion of trading opportunities will require closer transport and communication links among African countries. In the area of shipping, UNCTAD has participated actively in several sectoral working groups established to identify key issues relative to the objectives of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) and to recommend sectoral policies, strategies and programmes.

30. Among other projects, UNCTAD is providing technical assistance to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on Maritime Transport in promoting the establishment of a subregional coastal shipping service in West and Central Africa and in developing and implementing an Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS) through three subregional projects in southern Africa, West/Central Africa and East/Central Africa. ACIS is intended to develop into a system of Electronic Data Interchange for use as a tool for trade facilitation.

31. In the area of technology transfer and development, the UNCTAD secretariat has continued to provide assistance to African countries in the light of the priorities identified by OAU. In particular, UNCTAD has assisted Malawi and Uganda, at the national level, in formulating projects on technology transfer and development and, within the framework of an ongoing project funded by UNDP, has organized a national seminar for Burundi on technological and development perspectives in the food processing sector.

E. United Nations Environment Programme

32. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been strengthening its cooperation with OAU recently in the following nine priority areas:

(a) African Economic Community: UNEP has been making inputs into the AEC Protocol on the Environment;

(b) The first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) convened by UNEP, ECA and OAU in December 1985 to assist African countries in developing the capacity to address environmental issues. Subsequently, UNEP has been assisting African countries in the strengthening of their environmental management institutions, in particular, by supporting the African Regional Programme of Cooperation on the Environment which was adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. The UNEP regional office for Africa hosts joint UNEP/ECA/OAU secretariat of AMCEN. OAU has chosen to tackle the persistent problem of food and energy security within the framework of the AMCEN Pilot Village Programme which is being implemented at present in nine African countries;

(c) Global agreements on the environment: OAU and UNEP have been cooperating closely, especially with regard to the negotiations on climate change and biodiversity;

(d) Regional Seas Programme: Actions undertaken have been aimed at the enhancement of the implementation of the four action plans of relevance to the region, namely, the Mediterranean, Western and Central Africa, Eastern Africa and the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden;

(e) Environmentally sound management of African rivers and lake basins: Within the framework of the Cairo Programme of Action of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Committee on Rivers and Lake Basins carried out activities aimed at providing additional impetus to subregional projects and programmes in the area of shared water resources. Implementation of cooperative shared water management programmes for the Zambezi Basin and for the Lake Chad Basin continued successfully. Initial meetings at the ministerial level were organized recently by UNEP for a Nile Basin programme;

(f) Desertification. UNEP cooperated with OAU and its member States in encouraging necessary actions at the national and subregional levels. A number of States have strengthened their Plans of Action to Combat Desertification;

(g) Environmental monitoring. Through the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS)/UNITAR Africa Programme, support is being provided in setting up environmental information networks and systems, for example by using Geographical Information System techniques. Also the UNEP INFOTERRA Programme is active in some 20 African countries;

(h) Environmental legislation. More than 12 OAU member States were assisted in reviewing, formulating or reinforcing national environmental legislation;

(i) Environmental education and training: An Environmental Management Workshop was held at UNEP headquarters in November/December 1991 for key government personnel from OAU member States while, also under AMCEN Cairo Programme of Action, training courses and workshops are organized regularly on specific topics of environmental management.

F. United Nations Population Fund

33. Africa is a priority region for population funding by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as attested to by the numerous country population programmes funded by UNFPA in the past two decades. While such assistance at the country level should continue, the coverage so far has been uneven, largely because some of the African countries are yet to appreciate fully the relationship of population to social and economic development and the need to formulate a comprehensive national population policy in order to achieve integrated population and development planning. Under the circumstances, OAU as the political organ of member States can play a critical and catalytic role in sensitizing member States to the role of population in the achievement of their development goals and in providing technical assistance to member States in the integration of population into their development processes.

34. On 20 February 1992, OAU and UNFPA officially launched a new major project (RAF/91/P11) entitled the "OAU Population and Development Policy Programme". The project aims at assisting the OAU secretariat in strengthening its institutional, technical and management capabilities which will enhance the promotion and coordination of population programmes and activities of the member States of OAU. The main thrust of the project is to raise the level of awareness regarding the role of population in the development process, including the need to formulate comprehensive population policies and to design appropriate implementation strategies. This project continues and expands efforts initiated under the previous project RAF/84/P08, "Strengthening of Population, Labour and Development Activities in the OAU Secretariat", which was funded by UNFPA from 1983 through 1987.

35. Under the aegis of project RAF/91/P11, OAU is to establish a Population and Development Section within its secretariat. The section will function as a central coordinating unit for all secretariat population activities, including the conduct of policy research and analysis, the provision of training for secretariat staff and the dissemination of population and development information through workshops and seminars.

36. In accordance with the decision already taken by its Council of Ministers, and within the framework of project RAF/91/P11, UNFPA will assist OAU to establish a population commission which will be a permanent institution of OAU and will be responsible for population and development matters. The commission is to ensure the efficient coordination, sensitization and

cooperation among governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with population matters in Africa; undertake studies and provide the best technical knowledge and advice to the OAU Steering Committee on population trends and issues for future policy decisions to be taken by the population commission and the member States; and, promote and provide the relevant exchange and dissemination of information in the field of population and socio-economic development. The new section within the OAU secretariat will provide technical and advisory services to the population commission in the latter's efforts to present population and development issues for adoption by the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for consequent implementation by the respective member States, as appropriate.

37. OAU and UNFPA are now in the process of entering into a protocol which will promote enhanced collaboration and establish a framework for further cooperation between the two organizations.

38. In early 1991, UNFPA officially designated the UNFPA Country Director in Ethiopia to serve as representative liaison officer with OAU in order to promote increased and more timely collaboration between UNFPA and OAU.

39. UNFPA provided funding for seven participants to the OAU-sponsored Pan-African Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development, held at Bamako, from 23 to 30 January 1991. The UNFPA Country Director in Mali attended the Conference on behalf of UNFPA. The UNFPA Country Director in Nigeria represented UNFPA at the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its twenty-seventh ordinary session, held at Abuja, Nigeria.

G. World Food Programme

40. During 1991, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued the high priority accorded to OAU member States. The Programme approved projects worth more than US$ 814 million in 1991 in support of development, refugee and emergency operations in these countries. Additional resources were provided to many African countries, many of which are LDCs, to reduce the burden of project implementation by meeting part of the costs of internal transport, storage and handling of WFP-supplied commodities. In view of the financial constraints faced by most African countries, increased amounts of non-food items were also provided to ensure efficient implementation of WFP-assisted projects. The biennial training programme was pursued and 1,900 counterpart staff from the region were trained in various fields, such as project assessment and implementation, monitoring, reporting and storage.

41. Development assistance provided by WFP was concentrated on the priority areas identified by OAU. Assistance to human resources development totalled US$ 82 million including school feeding at the primary and secondary levels, technical and vocational training and institutional feeding in social centres. Increased attention was given to efforts undertaken to mitigate the negative effects of structural adjustment on the very poor. In addition, projects with a total value of US$ 69 million were approved in support of rural development activities.

42. Humanitarian assistance provided by WFP exceeded US$ 646 million during the year. The sum of US$ 137 million was provided to areas stricken by drought or crop failure, while protracted refugee projects accounted for US$ 434 million, almost a threefold increase over the previous year. Resources amounting to US$ 75 million were targeted towards assistance to displaced persons.

43. WFP contributed to the development of intra-African trade through commodity purchases in the region. In 1991, the Programme purchased food commodities worth US$ 60 million in OAU member States.

44. In view of the region's pressing development problems, the World Bank and WFP undertook a joint study of food aid in the sub-Saharan region of Africa, which was completed in 1991. The study concluded that food aid is a significant development resource that should be used to attack hunger and poverty. It contains recommendations in an agenda for priority action in the 1990s.

H. Economic Commission for Africa

45. Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and OAU during the period from 1991 to 1992 consisted of two categories of ongoing activities. The first included sectoral activities in connection with implementation of the work programmes of the two organizations and the second covered the work of the joint OAU/ECA African Development Bank (AfDB) secretariat of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee on the establishment of the African Economic Community.

46. The main areas of inter-departmental cooperation between OAU and ECA during the period under review covered human resources, social development, transport and communications, statistics and information systems and industry. Such cooperation has been translated into joint sponsorship of background papers, the organization of intergovernmental meetings, seminars and workshops and the co-sponsoring and monitoring of specific programmes.

47. In human resources development and utilization, ECA worked closely with OAU and the International Labour Organisation (ILO)/Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa with respect to the employment crisis in Africa. Cooperation in the field of social development aimed mainly at the joint organization of the meetings of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs. ECA and OAU have been cooperating closely in the formulation and follow-up of the implementation of the Programme for the Second Transport and Communications Development Decade for Africa, and are jointly engaged in the preparation of a festival of arts which is planned by the Government of Madagascar to be held at Antananarivo, Madagascar, in 1992.

48. In the field of statistics, cooperation between ECA and OAU involved the provision, twice yearly, of data on the gross domestic product of individual member States of the organization. More substantive cooperation took place in

the development of the ECA Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), since OAU is a member of the Regional Technical Committee and has direct access to the various databases maintained by PADIS. Also, OAU and ECA established a standing arrangement for cooperation in the field of industrial development, within the framework of a joint ECA/OAU/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) committee for the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) and of provision of assistance to the African Group during the fourth session of the General Conference of UNIDO in November 1991.

49. The joint OAU/ECA/AfDB secretariat has embarked on all activities relating to the preparation of the various protocols and terms of reference for the basic studies, selection of consultants to be recruited and review of the preliminary drafts. It has also formulated a work programme for putting the African Economic Community into operation through the drafting of protocols and strengthening the subregional economic groupings.

50. For all major initiatives related to Africa's development, ECA and OAU have held consultations. Specifically, during the period from April 1991 to March 1992, the two organizations collaborated in the final review and appraisal of UNPAAERD, 1986-1990, and in support of the OAU ministerial contact group on the external debt crisis in Africa.

I. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

51. In furtherance of cooperation with OAU, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat) developed and extended its technical cooperation activities in Africa at both national and regional levels in three main areas.

(a) National Shelter Strategy Formulation and Implementation: Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988 on a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, UNCHS (Habitat) continued to assist several member States of OAU in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies within the framework of the Global Strategy. In response to requests from Governments, UNCHS (Habitat), independently and in collaboration with the Government of Finland, is implementing specific projects in this field in the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Other projects in the pipeline are to be implemented in Angola, Benin, Ethiopia, Malawi, Namibia, Togo and Zambia. Two regional programmes on shelter strategies (one for francophone Africa, the other for anglophone Africa) have also been prepared. Funding for these two programmes, estimated at US$ 1.5 million per programme, is under consideration by UNDP;

(b) Urban management: Within the framework of the joint UNDP/World Bank/UNCHS Urban Management Programme, African countries will be able to draw upon a regional network of experts for country consultations and related action programmes in the areas of poverty alleviation, land management, infrastructure management, urban environmental management, and municipal

finance and administration. A regional municipal development programme has also been elaborated by UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with the World Bank and bilateral donors;

(c) Employment generation. Innovative projects with employment generation and improvement of living conditions for the urban poor as the main thrust have been planned by UNCHS (Habitat), ILO and United Nations Volunteers. It is envisaged that regional programmes and projects for Africa will be elaborated upon finalization of the preparatory assistance programme which is currently under consideration.

52. UNCHS (Habitat) is also exploring cooperation with OAU in assistance to refugees and returnees, as well as in international rail transportation, fields of human settlements amenable to south/south cooperation and subregional cooperation, all of which have a direct bearing on the African Economic Community.

J. World Food Council

53. The World Food Council (WFC) made a substantive contribution to the OAU document entitled "Towards a Framework for Common African Agricultural Programmes (CAAPs)".

54. During the reporting period, collaboration between WFC and OAU has been less active than in previous years. Nevertheless, the WFC ministerial session, to be held in Africa in June 1993 will provide an opportunity to renew collaboration with OAU. Possible areas that might be covered by renewed joint efforts could include:

(a) Hunger alleviation targets: WFC has drawn attention to the threat of famine in southern Africa and in several countries of eastern Africa, where severe droughts have seriously affected the food supply situation and the incidence of widespread malnutrition. WFC has also urged its African member countries to formulate specific domestic hunger-alleviation targets and supporting policies and programmes;

(b) New green revolution: For a WFC/UNDP expert consultation in Cairo last year, the WFC secretariat prepared an extensive review on the state of agricultural research and technological development in Africa, which still serves as a useful reference for Governments and supporting organizations. The urgent need for a green revolution was discussed at the meeting and could be an area for future cooperation with OAU;

(c) Further assessment of food-strategy experience: Given the important potential of food strategies to focus development plans and policies on hunger and poverty alleviation, WFC is exploring practical ways for improving coordination between Governments and bilateral as well as multilateral agencies in support of food strategies or food security policies and programmes. In order to advance the understanding of effective policies to

meet the food-security challenges of the 1990s, WFC has collaborated with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Agency for International Development in policy assessments in Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, and intends to do the same in other countries. In the future, OAU may wish to cooperate in this field.

K. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

55. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) led a United Nations system-wide programme of assistance to OAU in the Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP). CAAP will provide a policy and technical framework for regional agricultural cooperation under the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and for the Community's proposed protocol on food and agriculture. FAO prepared a framework paper for CAAP, and organized and funded a consultancy to develop a draft common African agricultural programme framework.

56. FAO is consulting with OAU on the implementation of the food security component of UNDP technical assistance to OAU. In particular, FAO has expressed its interest to OAU in exploring the possibility of providing technical support for the implementation of the UNDP/FAO food security component to ensure complementarity between activities planned by OAU in this area and those in which FAO is already engaged. FAO has suggested the establishment of an African food security network at Addis Ababa under the auspices of OAU, and with subregional food security coordinating units based in the main regional economic integration bodies, namely, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States. This FAO initiative addresses the food security concerns of article 46 of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community dealing with agricultural development and food production.

57. Animal health provided another major area of FAO/OAU cooperation. FAO continued to support the OAU Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign and the programme for the Control of African Trypanosomiasis. It continued to cooperate with OAU on strengthening the production and quality control of priority veterinary medicines. Through the OAU Inter-African Phytosanitary Council and the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission, FAO also cooperated with OAU in the fields of plant production and protection and fisheries respectively. Cooperation between FAO and OAU is envisaged in the operation of the FAO-sponsored Technical Cooperation Network on Agricultural Project Management.

L. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

58. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and OAU have pursued their cooperation through activities undertaken in member States, through the contacts between the UNESCO representative to OAU and the OAU Steering Committee, and through the meetings of the joint OAU/UNESCO Cooperation Committee.

59. In addition, the Director-General of UNESCO attended the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held at Abuja, Nigeria, in 1991. UNESCO was also represented at various meetings of the Council of Ministers of OAU, as well as the twenty-third session of the OAU Coordinating Committee for Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Windhoek in April 1992.

60. OAU was represented at the General Conference held in Paris in October/November 1991, and its representative held discussions with the Director-General on ways and means of strengthening cooperation between UNESCO and OAU. OAU is invited regularly to participate in the regional activities organized in Africa as part of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery.

61. Cooperation between the two organizations for the current biennium covers the following areas, programmes and projects:

(a) Education: The role of African universities in development; and, the adult literacy centre at Niamey;

(b) Science and technology: Biotechnology and its applications in Africa; special programme of assistance for Africa; and, the African Informatics Plan;

(c) Environment and sustainable development: Final phase of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992); and, development of machinery for monitoring the Conference at Rio de Janiero;

(d) Culture and development: Implementation of the medium-term African Cultural Development Plan (1991-1995);

(e) Communications: Promotion of an African pluralistic press;

(f) Human rights and elimination of apartheid: Training seminar for teachers; and, designing, producing and disseminating teaching materials;

(g) Women and youth: Literacy and continuous education for women in order to promote child health; women and the process of democratization in Africa; and, education, training and social reintegration of young people in difficult situations.

62. OAU has obtained assistance in the amount of US$ 45,000 under the Participation Programme for 1990-1991.

M. International Civil Aviation Organization

63. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has followed the policy of African economic integration laid down by OAU when providing assistance to African civil aviation and airport authorities to upgrade their efficiency, to finance required equipment and to maintain a high level of competence of their staff.

64. ICAO is implementing 70 country or regional projects throughout the African continent. Over 80 per cent of these projects are funded through UNDP, the remainder being funded by cost-sharing, trust funds or such sources as the AfDB of the World Bank. ICAO continues to support UNPAAERD and has participated in high-level meetings to review the implementation of the programme. ICAO also continues to play a very active role in the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa, contributing to the work of the Resources Mobilization Committee which has prepared the list of projects for the Decade.

65. ICAO continues to maintain a close and continuous working relationship with the African Civil Aviation Commission and provides the Commission with expert advice and secretariat assistance upon request. Documents and studies of interest to the African region are provided to OAU on a regular basis in order to allow it to maintain basic documentation on civil aviation matters. ICAO also works in close cooperation with subregional organizations in Africa on the development of international civil aviation, notably the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States and the Economic Communities of Central African and West African States.

66. OAU continues to be invited to ICAO meetings within its sphere of interest. ICAO in turn was represented at the relevant OAU meetings held during the period under review.

N. World Health Organization

67. WHO collaborated closely with OAU in organizing an extraordinary Conference of African Ministers for Health, which was held in Geneva on 5 May 1992, to prepare a draft declaration containing a six-point agenda for action to slow the epidemic of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and limit its devastating impact. At its meeting at Dakar from 29 June to 1 July 1992, the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government was expected to consider and adopt a declaration on AIDS, which would commit the leaders of Africa to giving full political support to mobilizing society as a whole to fight against AIDS and prevent the sexual transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and, make AIDS a top priority for external

resource allocation in line with the targets outlined by their Ministers for Health.

68. The Director-General of WHO has taken steps to strengthen the WHO liaison office which provides a direct link to OAU at Addis Ababa and to bring it under the aegis of his own office at WHO headquarters, thereby facilitating efficient collaboration in implementing OAU resolutions. OAU has been represented in meetings of the governing bodies of WHO at both global and regional levels, and WHO has participated in, and supported preparations for, OAU ministerial conferences.

69. In support of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, WHO is collaborating in the elaboration of protocols on human resources, social affairs, health and population, and is preparing a contribution to the formulation and implementation of a protocol on health. An important contribution to this effort is the "Accra Initiative on Health" emanating from the International Forum, held at Accra in December 1991, which has been instrumental in urging Governments to analyse the health impact of existing and future development projects, particularly relating to vulnerable groups, and to implement the necessary protective measures to safeguard, promote and improve the health status of affected populations, particularly women.

70. In preparation for a ministerial conference on malaria to be held in October 1992, an interregional conference was held at Brazzaville in October 1991, in which OAU played an active role.

71. A meeting of all African countries was called in May 1992 during the Health Assembly to review the growing threat of cholera in Africa and to work out an integrated strategy to fight it as a regional problem.

72. WHO has cooperated with OAU and other United Nations agencies, including FAO, in developing the OAU Secretary-General's initiative for the International Decade on Food and Nutrition in Africa (1992-2002). This initiative is linked to the International Conference on Nutrition organized by WHO and FAO, to be held in December 1992, and it is expected that all OAU member States will develop national plans of action for food and nutrition. On the basis of the technical advice of WHO, the OAU Council of Ministers adopted a resolution urging the 45 African countries affected to ensure universal use of iodinated salt.

73. The Pan-African Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, established by WHO at Addis Ababa, has been placed under the technical and administrative supervision of the Director for Emergency Relief and Operations at WHO headquarters. This centre continues to provide technical support to the African countries in preparing for and responding to disasters. WHO also participated actively in the production of a consolidated appeal for the Horn of Africa and in the Special Emergency Programme for Humanitarian Affairs, established by the United Nations.

O. International Monetary Fund

74. The Fund continued to cooperate with OAU through its member States that are also Fund members, and at the United Nations through contacts between the Director of the Fund's Office at the United Nations (who is also the Special Representative of the Fund at the United Nations) and the OAU Steering Committee in relation to Africa's Priority Programme. The main vehicles for cooperation include financial assistance, external debt and aid coordination, policy advice, surveillance and technical assistance.

75. The Fund continued to provide its own financial resources under its different facilities, but especially under the Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF)/Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF), to African countries in support of their structural adjustment programmes. As at the end of March 1992, there were 29 programmes in place in various African countries. These included six stand-by arrangements, two arrangements under the extended Fund facility, six arrangements under SAF and 11 under ESAF. Total credit and loans granted by the Fund and outstanding to OAU member countries amounted to SDR 5.98 billion at the end of 1991. The Fund, in its catalytic role, also continued to mobilize additional resources for the African countries in the context of multilateral conferences on aid coordination through, inter alia, consultative group meetings and UNDP-sponsored round-table discussions, as well as debt rescheduling.

76. The Fund exercised its policy advice and surveillance functions through its regular consultations with OAU member States and by helping these countries to design adjustment programmes that could be supported by the Fund; it also continued to collaborate actively with regional organizations in Africa. The Fund also continued to provide extensive technical assistance for the effective management of policy reforms in many areas, including public finance, monetary policy, debt management and exchange rate management, as well as in the design of social safety nets. It has also offered training, both at headquarters and in the field, in financial analysis, public finance and the balance of payments.

P. Universal Postal Union

77. Cooperation between the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and OAU takes place within the framework of the joint activities of UPU and the Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU), a specialized agency of OAU, and mainly in the field of technical assistance. The cooperation agreement concluded to this effect enables UPU and PAPU to coordinate their programmes and jointly carry out technical assistance activities funded by resources from both parties. From July 1991 to May 1992, a joint UPU-PAPU project was implemented in the form of a seminar on mail handling in ports and airports.

78. Using its own resources and within the framework of UNDP projects, UPU has supplied and continues to supply to the member States of PAPU substantial technical assistance in a variety of forms. During the above-mentioned

period, this comprised missions by experts/consultants relating, inter alia, to operational activities, studies, organization of services; fellowships for individual and group training; and, supply of postal operational equipment.

79. Since January 1991, that assistance has been enhanced by the presence in the field of two UPU regional advisers, who are providing sustained support to the postal administrators of the French, English, Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa. PAPU, being a restricted union according to article 8 of the UPU Constitution, supports the application of the decisions of the bodies of UPU before its member States.

80. Within the framework of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, UPU heads the Postal Services Sectoral Working Party, the other members of which are PAPU, OAU, ECA and UNDP. In connection with that same activity, UPU initiated five regional projects, three of which were approved by the Resource Mobilization Committee with the active support of OAU and PAPU. These projects concern improvement of mail security, establishment of regional and subregional transit centres and, introduction of modular training systems in country and intercountry schools.

81. UPU intends to contribute to the implementation of the multi-year programme (1993-1996) which the PAPU secretariat submitted to that agency's Plenipotentiary Conference held in May 1992. UPU will coordinate with OAU and PAPU towards achieving the objectives set in the Treaty and elaborated in the Protocol on Transport and Communications in so far as the postal sector is concerned.

Q. International Telecommunication Union

82. Under the aegis of the Lagos Plan of Action, the cooperation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with OAU covers the following areas:

(a) Pan-african Telecommunication Network (PANAFTEL): OAU is a member of the PANAFTEL Coordinating Committee whose members share responsibility for political (OAU), economic (ECA), financial (AfDB), and technical (Pan African Telecommunication Union (PATU) and ITU) coordination in the implementation of the PANAFTEL network. The PANAFTEL project was terminated at the beginning of 1992. Although a document on a follow-up phase has been prepared, owing to a lack of financing, this phase has not yet been realized;

(b) Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM): The project was developed under the coordination of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC), composed of 10 subregional, regional and international organizations, including OAU as Chairman, and ITU as the lead agency/coordinator. A RASCOM feasibility study was completed by the end of 1990, and an interim phase was started prior to full implementation of the project. The Conference of African Ministers responsible for telecommunications decided at their meeting at Abuja, from 4 to

6 February 1991, to proceed with the transitional stage of the project. During the interim phase, IACC has an advisory role;

(c) Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II): ITU has collaborated with OAU in the implementation of a wider range of telecommunication projects which fall under the aegis of UNTACDA II. The goal of the UNTACDA II programme is to establish an efficient integrated transport and communications system;

(d) African Telecommunication Development Conference (December 1990): In cooperation with OAU, ECA, AfDB, PATU and the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, the African Telecommunication Development Conference was organized at Harare. It was the first periodic regional and world telecommunication development conference to be organized by the newly created Telecommunication Development Bureau of ITU. The Conference was attended by more than 200 high-level delegates from telecommunication administrations and broadcasting organizations of 47 African countries. In addition, there were more than 100 observers from development agencies as well as from manufacturing and consultancy firms. The Conference achieved its main objective, namely, to provide guidelines for Governments and for ITU for the development of telecommunications in Africa;

(e) United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD): ITU also participated in the implementation of UNPAAERD. In this regard, the Union continued to urge African Governments to accord priority to the development and expansion of telecommunications services at national and regional levels. ITU implemented telecommunications projects in Africa in 1990 and 1991, valued at US$ 17.8 and US$ 14.7 million respectively, from budgetary and extrabudgetary sources.

R. World Intellectual Property Organization

83. Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between WIPO and OAU, and as part of its programme to promote inventive and innovative activity in Africa, WIPO offered a gold medal to be awarded to an outstanding African inventor. On the basis of the selection by a jury composed of African personalities designated by OAU, the President of Nigeria awarded the medal to an Egyptian inventor on the occasion of the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held at Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991.

84. In December 1991 in cooperation with OAU, WIPO organized an African regional seminar on copyright at Kampala. This activity was requested by OAU as a means of disseminating information in Africa on copyright. WIPO financed, from its African regional project budget, the participation in the seminar of officials from Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zimbabwe, as well as invited speakers from Algeria, Ghana, Switzerland, Uganda and the United States of America.

85. In April 1992, two WIPO officials visited the OAU headquarters at Addis Ababa and held discussions with the Secretary-General of OAU and senior OAU officials regarding cooperation between WIPO and OAU in the preparation of the Protocol on Science and Technology under the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community. It was agreed that WIPO should make comments and suggestions on the terms of reference for drafting the Protocol on Science and Technology and make inputs in respect of the preparation of the draft Protocol. During the period under review, WIPO also continued to strengthen its cooperation with intergovernmental organizations in Africa.

S. International Fund for Agricultural Development

86. By the end of 1991, assistance by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the African region under the regular programme amounted to SDR 772.2 million (US$ 926 million) in loans and grants for 106 projects in 40 countries. In addition, by the end of 1991, under its Special Programme for sub-Saharan African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification, IFAD provided SDR 198.9 million (US$ 257.7 million) for 29 projects in 19 countries, including grants for projects of SDR 6.8 million (US$ 8.4 million). In 1991, under the regular and special programme combined, 10 sub-Saharan African countries received SDR 85.6 million (US$ 116.6 million) in assistance for 10 projects. Of the total project costs of US$ 194 million, IFAD contributed 60.1 per cent.

87. The continuation of the special programme for a further three years starting on 1 January 1991 was recommended, and consultations already undertaken provided encouraging results. France has pledged US$ 40 million and other countries have indicated their willingness to make substantial pledges in the near future. The target set for the second phase of the special programme is US$ 300 million. In March 1991, the Council of Ministers of OAU adopted a resolution appealing to the international donor community to make all efforts to augment the resources of the second phase of the special programme. Poverty alleviation through environmental preservation will be the main objective of the second phase of the programme.

88. Since 1979, IFAD has awarded 60 technical assistance grants for research and training, channelled through international agricultural research centres. In Africa, the total amount of the Fund's grant support solely to agricultural research amounts to approximately US$ 42 million. During 1991, implementation of the fourth subprogramme of the Agricultural Management and Training Programme for Africa (AMTA IV) continued, although political disturbances in most of the participating countries caused some delays. Execution of AMTA IV is entrusted to the AfDB. An evaluation of AMTA undertaken jointly in 1991 by the participating agencies revealed its adequacy as a programme specifically geared to Africa's agricultural sector. The results of the evaluation will serve as guidelines for the design of future AMTA activities which are expected to cover all OAU member States in a sustainable manner.

IV. COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS

A. World Meteorological Organization

89. In 1991, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) implemented some 40 national and regional projects funded by UNDP and other donors as well as by the regular budget of the organization. The total assistance to the African countries in 1991 was approximately US$ 18 million. These programmes are aimed at contributing as a priority to areas of the African countries mainly in the sectors of food and agriculture, environment, water, human resources development and science and technology. The major programmes which were implemented in 1991 were the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), established at Niamey, the AGRHYMET Programme for CILSS countries, the Drought Monitoring Centres for eastern and southern Africa established at Nairobi and Harare, the Hydrological Forecasting System for the River Niger Basin, regional meteorological training centres, regional meteorological specialized centres and the Tropical Cyclone Programme for South-west Indian Ocean countries member countries.

90. In addition to the above-mentioned programmes, OAU hydrology projects such as the International Hydrological Map of Africa are benefiting from the efforts made by WMO, UNESCO and UNDP to establish adequate networks and water resources master plans in the African countries. WMO is organizing, in cooperation with ECA, an African conference on hydrological services which is to be held in 1993. Within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), WMO is participating in the Inter-Agency Work Group (IAWG) of AMCEN and in the work of the committees and networks established by AMCEN. WMO is also cooperating with UNEP in its desertification programme for Africa through its world climate programme activities. In the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, WMO is collaborating closely with OAU in the assessment and development of strategies for African countries involved in aspects of disaster reduction related to weather and climate, such as tropical cyclones, floods, droughts and storm surges.

91. WMO also cooperated with OAU and ECA in preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1992 through its participation in the various regional meetings concerning the theme of environment and sustainable development. WMO participated in the OAU Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, held at Bamako from 23 to 30 January 1991, where factors such as climate and climate change, water resources, energy resources, tropical cyclones, global warming and ozone layer depletion were considered essential in any future planning for sustainable development in Africa.

92. Economic groupings such as SADCC, IGADD, the Economic Commission of the Great Lakes Countries, CILSS, the Union of the Arab Maghreb and the Indian Ocean Commission have introduced meteorology as an area of regional cooperation. ECOWAS has considered a cooperation agreement, while ECCAS is studying such a possibility. WMO has been assisting the groupings in the

development of the programmes and in their implementation. With regard to the Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP), WMO provided specific inputs. The modalities of the possible contribution of WMO to the Protocol on Environment and others could be defined.

93. In view of the importance of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and the Protocols to the future development of Africa, it is essential that aspects of weather, water, climate and environment be explicitly recognized. In this regard, it would be appropriate if consultations between the two organizations were organized on a routine basis and the modalities of such consultation and cooperation were defined and formalized.

B. International Maritime Organization

94. At the national level, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has assisted the following African maritime training centres from January 1991 to March 1992:

Algeria	Institut Supérieur Maritime, Bou-Ismail
Cape Verde	Centro de Formacao Náutica, Mindelo
Egypt	Alexandria Maritime Transport Academy, Alexandria
Kenya	Bandari College, Mombasa
Madagascar	Ecole Nationale d'Enseignement Maritime, Mahajanga
Malawi	Marine Training College, Monkey Bay
Morocco	Institut Supérieur d'Etudes Maritimes, Casablanca
Nigeria	Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron
Senegal	Ecole Nationale de Formation Maritime, Dakar
Somalia	Somali Maritime Institute, Mogadishu
Tunisia	Ecole de la Marine Merchande, Sousse
United Republic of Tanzania	Marine Training Institute, Dar es Salaam

95. On the regional level, IMO continues to support the Regional Academy of Maritime Science and Technology at Abidjan for French-speaking countries, and the Regional Maritime Academy at Accra, for English-speaking African countries. These projects promote self-sufficiency in the manpower and technological capacity of the west and central African subregion, including the following LDCs: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo.

96. Maritime training at the global level is currently imparted with IMO support to the following institutions:

(a) World Maritime University (WMU) at Malmö, Sweden, where specialized training is provided at the post-graduate degree level. Twenty-eight students from 18 African countries were enrolled at WMU in 1991 and, in 1992, 24 students from 14 African countries. WMU has now established 11 branches world wide, including five branches in Africa. These WMU branches conduct IMO model short courses in addition to other courses;

(b) IMO International Maritime Academy at Trieste, Italy, at which IMO specialized short courses are conducted. Seventeen students from 10 African countries attended the Academy in 1991 and 1992;

(c) IMO International Maritime Law Institute in Malta, which 14 students from as many African countries attended during 1991.

97. IMO has acted as the executing agency for numerous national and regional projects undertaken within the framework of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (1992-2000), in cooperation with ECA and OAU. At present, it is implementing or providing assistance to projects in 40 countries in Africa, including seven regional projects. In addition, nine seminars and workshops on national and regional bases were conducted in Africa during 1991.

98. Under the leadership of ECA, in 1991 IMO developed a project on Human Resources and Institutional Development for the Maritime Sector with UNDP funding. Six case studies on national shipping companies were undertaken and a model summary report was elaborated. This led to six workshops held in East and West Africa, during which a strategy was set up with a view to developing and enhancing human resources particularly in terms of management and training. Phase two of this project will be developed under the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (1992-2000) under the leadership of ECA and in association with other specialized agencies for all transport and communications.

99. Activities undertaken by IMO in the environmental field include an IMO/UNEP cooperation programme, which for many years has been an important element in the implementation of activities under the Regional Seas Action Plans covering African countries.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Annexes, agenda item 81, document A/46/731, para. 17.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/453/Add.1
21 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 27

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	2
II.	ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	5 - 10	2
III.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	11 - 34	4
	A. Popularization of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community	11 - 14	4
	B. Economic integration and cooperation	15 - 17	5
	C. Refugees, returnees and displaced persons	18 - 24	6
	D. United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s	25 - 34	7

92-45487 3533h (E) 141092 161092

/...

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 26 November 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/20 by which, inter alia, it called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to work in close coordination and cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in particular on follow-up to and review and evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. 1/

2. The General Assembly reaffirmed that the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s would necessitate the full participation of the international community, in particular of the Governments, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and emphasized the importance and the need to ensure follow-up to and monitoring and implementation of the New Agenda in accordance with General Assembly decisions.

3. By the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the agreement reached between the organizations of the United Nations system and OAU for convening a meeting between the secretariats of those organizations, to be held in 1992, in order to review and evaluate the final progress achieved in the implementation of the proposals and recommendations agreed upon in April 1990 and 1991, and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to support the efforts of the Secretary-General of OAU, with a view to holding sectoral meetings in the priority areas of cooperation, particularly the establishment of the African Economic Community and the strengthening of the African regional and subregional organization.

4. The present report gives an account of the deliberations, conclusions and recommendations of the meeting held at Addis Ababa from 2 to 4 April 1992 between the secretariats of the United Nations system of organizations and of OAU, its specialized agencies and other organizations.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

5. On 1 November 1991, a delegation of the OAU secretariat, led by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Cooperation, held a consultative meeting with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship in New York on cooperation between the United Nations system of organizations and OAU.

6. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that a mid-term meeting between the secretariats of the United Nations system and OAU should be convened to review implementation of the programme of cooperation between the secretariats of the two organizations since their meeting in April 1991; and to adopt new measures for the effective implementation of the 1992/93

programme of cooperation in the context of OAU efforts to establish the African Economic Community.

7. Subsequently, at the request of OAU it was agreed that the meeting should also exchange views on the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to ensure that practical modalities for cooperation between the two secretariats are put in place for the implementation of the New Agenda.

8. It was agreed that the agenda for the meeting should be as follows:

(a) Review of cooperation between the secretariats of the United Nations system and OAU during the period from April 1991 to March 1992;

(b) Popularization of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

(c) Economic integration and cooperation;

(d) Refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

(e) United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

9. The list of participants in the meeting from the United Nations system and OAU, as well as other organizations follows:

A. United Nations

Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat
Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat
United Nationsw Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
World Food Programme (WFP)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO)/ Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

B. Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)/World Bank
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

C. Organization of African Unity

General Secretariat
African Accounting Council (ACC)
African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI)
Pan-African News Agency (PANA)
Supreme Council of Sports for Africa (SCSA/CSSA)

D. Other organizations

African Development Bank (AfDB)

10. The meeting was officially opened by Mr. James O. C. Jonah, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who delivered the message of Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The meeting was also addressed by Ambassador Brownson Dede, Assistant Secretary-General of OAU for Economic Development and Cooperation, and by Mr. Issa Ben Yacine Diallo, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Popularization of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community

11. The meeting recalled that the provisions of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community envisage, primarily, the strengthening of existing regional economic communities, particularly the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). In this regard, participants were urged to support those organizations as they constituted the building blocks of the African Economic Community.

12. Regarding the sensitization campaign, OAU requested the United Nations system, particularly the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to mount this campaign and to mobilize support for Africa's development partners and for the programmes and activities of the African Economic Community. The United Nations system was urged to promote and ensure sustained media support throughout the implementation stages of the African Economic Community.

13. After a thorough exchange of views on the subject, the participants stressed that Africa must strengthen its resolve and commitment to the objectives of the African Economic Community. They agreed on the following actions to be undertaken for the popularization of the Economic Community:

(a) Popularization of the Treaty must start at the national level;

(b) The links that exist between the popularization of the Treaty, its implementation and the role to be played by Africans must be emphasized;

(c) Implementation of the Treaty and its popularization must be included on the agenda of African leaders;

(d) Popularization of the objectives of the Economic Community must be debated in national parliaments and conferences;

(e) Committees for popularizing the Treaty must be established at national levels;

(f) The specialized agencies of the United Nations system must be urged to translate, print and disseminate the Treaty in African languages in order to reach the grass-roots levels of the population.

14. The meeting underscored the need for close cooperation between OAU and the United Nations system in carrying out the sensitization campaign. OAU was requested to submit to the United Nations agencies specific projects on its programmes for the popularization of the Treaty and its implementation. The United Nations agencies also requested that the subject be included on the agenda of the meetings, seminars and workshops which they organize in Africa. Examples of such meetings included those of the African Labour Commission and the forthcoming International Donors Conference on the African Child. The meeting agreed to the proposal of holding two meetings between the United Nations system and OAU in New York and Geneva to help sensitize the international community about the objectives of the African Economic Community.

B. Economic integration and cooperation

15. The meeting noted the primary role that regional economic communities play in the context of article 6 of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. In this regard, it was stressed that the African Economic Community would enhance the strengthening and development of regional economic communities. The United Nations specialized agencies would continue to assist OAU in the preparation of the protocols of the Economic Community. Those already participating in the preparation of the protocols were urged to pursue their efforts in close cooperation with OAU. OAU stated it would submit specific requests to those who were not yet involved in the preparation of the relevant protocols.

16. It was agreed that the United Nations specialized agencies would provide information to OAU on the activities they carry out with the regional economic communities in Africa in their specific areas of competence. The United Nations agencies requested OAU to submit to them appropriate requests prior to the holding of meetings on the cooperation between the secretariats of the two organizations. The meeting agreed that the submissions of the United Nations

agencies on their respective areas of cooperation with OAU should be annexed to the report of the meeting.

17. It was proposed that meetings be organized in Geneva and New York to popularize the Treaty and to take stock of the cooperation between OAU and the United Nations prior to the regular meetings between organizations of the United Nations system and OAU.

C. Refugees, returnees and displaced persons

18. The meeting focused on a number of priority issues concerning refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including root causes; durable solutions; emergency preparedness and response; collaborative, integrated and coordinated approaches to humanitarian assistance; the humanitarian dimension of the New Agenda for Africa; and the follow-up to the International Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (SARRED)

19. The meeting identified human rights abuses, conflicts and adverse socio-economic conditions as constituting the main root causes of the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons in AFrica. It noted the establishment within the OAU general secretariat of a division to deal specifically with conflict prevention, management and resolution. The meeting also noted the requests and appeal made by OAU with regard to resources and logistic support to enable it to cope with conflict situations. In this connection, OAU called upon relevant United Nations agencies to consider providing training facilities for OAU personnel in order to enhance their technical capability and capacity to handle conflict situations effectively, in particular, conflict prevention and management.

20. With regard to durable solutions, the meeting was of the view that voluntary repatriation was only feasible in an atmosphere of peace, security and stability. It noted that efforts by OAU and the United Nations had brought about positive results in that regard and should be encouraged and intensified. It also noted that there was need for burden sharing in mobilizing resources at all levels for the reintegration of returnees. Local integration was considered as the next most durable solution where voluntary repatriation was not feasible. It urged member States of OAU to facilitate local integration of those refugees who might opt to remain in their countries of asylum (naturalization, access to job opportunities, etc.).

21. The meeting considered the importance of emergency preparedness and response as tools necessary for prompt action in emergency situations. There was, however, a need for OAU and relevant United Nations bodies to establish an early warning system mechanism and for strengthening of coordination as well as for mobilizing adequate resources and ensuring their prompt and efficient delivery to the target groups. OAU and its member States must also ensure that corridors of tranquillity are created within conflict areas to enable humanitarian assistance to reach the affected population.

22. The meeting further noted that in order to provide effectively for the needs of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, there must be a general coordinated and collaborative approach by the United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations. It urged that the humanitarian dimension of the New Agenda should be given due attention in the implementation of the programme.

23. The meeting noted that the provisions of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on SARRED (A/43/717 and Add.1, appendix) were still valid and should be pursued. In this connection, it called for the convening of the Steering Committee of SARRED to review developments in southern Africa, particularly the repatriation of South Africans, Angolans and Mozambicans to their respective countries and their subsequent rehabilitation.

24. Special mention was made of the Rwanda and Somali cases where OAU and the United Nations systems had worked closely. The meeting appealed to the United Nations system of organizations to provide increased resources to African countries in order to enable them to cope more effectively with the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons. In this regard, the meeting:

(a) Urged those OAU member States that have not yet ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights as well as the 1969 OAU Convention on Refugees to do so, and to adhere strictly to their provisions as a basis for addressing the outflow and the problem of refugees in the continent;

(b) Called upon OAU and UNHCR to organize seminars and meetings to sensitize and educate the public on the root causes of asylum-seeking on the continent;

(c) Called upon the concerned member States of OAU to adopt the necessary legal measures within the countries of origin to enable the smooth and safe reintegration of returnees;

(d) Called upon OAU member States and relevant United Nations system organizations to integrate returnee programmes into their national development plans;

(e) Urged OAU, UNHCR and other organizations concerned to finalize as soon as possible the Plan of Action on Rwandese refugees. OAU was requested to pursue its efforts to ensure an early and effective cease-fire and promote the dialogue between the parties to the conflict in order to pave the way for humanitarian response to the crisis.

D. United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

25. In discussing the modalities of follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the meeting observed that action would be needed at both

institutional (namely, OAU and the United Nations system of organizations) and intergovernmental levels regarding the identification of specific activities to be carried out. It was emphasized that the OAU secretariat should be more involved in the follow-up, evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda. In this connection, the meeting noted that the OAU Permanent Steering Committee, which would meet from 6 to 10 April 1992, and which had the United Nations New Agenda as one of the most important items on its agenda, should come up with arrangements for a machinery among African countries that would fit into the envisaged global machinery.

26. The attention of the meeting was drawn to the follow-up monitoring and evaluation machinery as contained in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and General Assembly resolution 46/20 on Cooperation between the United Nations and OAU which emphasize the importance of, and the need to ensure follow-up to, and monitoring and implementation of, the United Nations New Agenda. These documents also stipulate that the Secretary-General of the United Nations should work in close coordination and cooperation with the Secretary-General of OAU on follow-up to, and review and evaluation of, the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda; and request the United Nations Secretary-General to invite the representative of the Secretary-General of OAU to participate in the meetings of all the United Nations bodies/committees and its working groups on follow-up to and monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the New Agenda. The meeting noted that the provisions of these resolutions constituted the basis and rationale for the agenda item under discussion.

27. The United Nations Secretariat, particularly the Department of Economic and Social Development and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), provided important information regarding arrangements being made to follow-up, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda. The arrangements at United Nations Headquarters included the establishment of the Office of the Special Coordinator in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development whose functions embraced, inter alia, promotional activities, follow-up at national level, monitoring and mobilizing international support for the implementation of the New Agenda. They also included a proposal to establish a high-level consultative group of between 15 and 25 personalities to advise the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda.

28. On the proposed high-level consultative group, the meeting was informed that the membership would consist of personalities from various regions of the world, namely, AFrica, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and North America. It was observed that care must be taken not to have a consultative group which would be similar to intergovernmental machinery. It was also stressed that more consultations should take place on the issue, including in particular with OAU.

29. The meeting was informed that a United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force proposed under the 1992/93 budget would monitor the implementation of a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development which

was in the process of being finalized, including programme 45 of the 1992-1997 medium-term plan of the United Nations. It was also informed that other inter-agency machineries were being contemplated. It was noted that since programme 45 was prepared before the adoption of the United Nations New Agenda, it was being updated to incorporate all elements of the latter. Also, in order to enable the United Nations system of organizations to take into account various aspects of their cooperation with OAU in the revision of the system-wide plan of action, OAU should provide the necessary information, bearing in mind existing activities and programmes directed to Africa at national, subregional and regional levels. Specifically, it was agreed that the system-wide plan of action should place particular emphasis on activities and programmes promoting economic cooperation and integration. It was also agreed that efforts should be made to come up with innovative activities and resources that are additional to existing ones. Most of the time, the tendency had been to report on ongoing activities, as was often the case during the implementation period of UNPAAERD.

30. In addition to the above planned arrangements in the United Nations Secretariat and at the inter-agency level, the meeting also discussed the issues of follow-up of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda at the national level. It was observed that, in addition to the role which the United Nations resident coordinator could play at the national level, United Nations agencies together with OAU local offices, where they exist, should be more involved and necessary consultations should take place to that effect.

31. The meeting discussed extensively the role of OAU, at various levels, in the follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda. It was noted that General Assembly resolution 46/20 clearly spelled out the collaboration between the United Nations system and OAU, including the follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the New Agenda, as contained in paragraph 46 of the New Agenda. While resolution 46/20 was comprehensive and provided an umbrella for cooperation, the meeting made specific proposals on involvement of OAU in the follow-up of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda. It was suggested that OAU should participate fully in all meetings of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force (see para. 29) and in the meetings of the inter-agency machinery that would eventually emerge. OAU should also be invited, when appropriate, to address such high-level inter-agency machinery as the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination, as and when issues related to the United Nations New Agenda or more generally to cooperation between the United Nations and OAU are to be discussed. It would also, through its member States, voice its concerns at the United Nations Committee for Programme and Coordination when the United Nations New Agenda-related subjects are considered.

32. It was agreed that OAU should continue contacts with the various United Nations agencies with a view to reviewing specific sectoral activities. In this context, it was recommended that sectoral meetings, or meetings on cross-sectoral issues, should be organized as and when required. While food and agriculture, as well as environment in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at

Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, were indicated as some of such sectoral issues, it was agreed that consultations should take place between OAU and the United Nations system of organizations to identify the need, the nature and the scope of such sectoral meetings which should not be exclusive of any sector. It was also recommended that OAU and the United Nations specialized agencies should endeavour to invite the OAU specialized agencies in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda-related activities. In this regard, it was suggested that OAU specialized agencies should prepare and submit concrete project proposals to the United Nations system for joint activities.

33. While the matter was not directly related to cooperation between the United Nations and OAU, the meeting underscored the fact that the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s rested on a number of critical requirements to Africa's economic recovery and development, paramount among which were adequate resource flows to Africa, alleviation of the external debt burden and remunerative prices of primary commodities. It was noted that OAU could provide political support to the efforts of the United Nations system of organization in getting additional resources to be used in various sectoral activities aimed at African economic recovery and development. It was also noted that the net resource flows required to achieve a 6 per cent annual growth rate of the African economy could only be seen as complementary to Africa's own domestic savings. Consequently, greater effort should be made towards domestic resource mobilization.

34. Finally, OAU was requested to ensure that the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was placed on the agenda of subsequent meetings between OAU and the United Nations system of organizations. It was agreed that this should be done while maintaining the format of previous meetings.

Notes

1/ General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.